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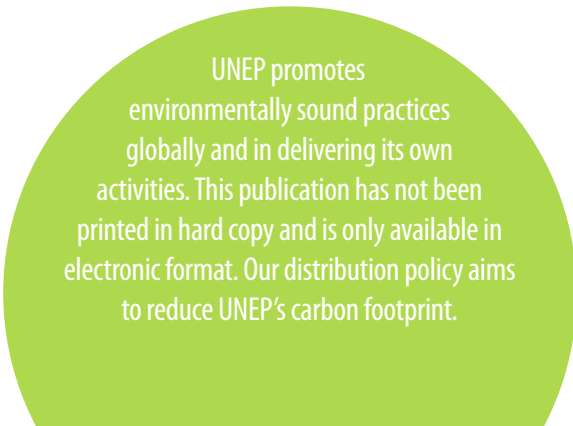
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Natural Allies:

Engaging Civil Society
in UNEP's Work

Second Edition

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Foreword



In the Foreword to the first edition of *Natural Allies*, published in 2004, noted Indian ecologist Dr. Vandana Shiva wrote that: "Engagement between UNEP and civil society is necessary, both for UNEP and for the protection of the planet's fragile web of life. In this engagement lies the potential for resurgence of democracy and ecological awareness. I welcome this new engagement of UNEP with the democratic forces of civil society: it will strengthen both."

Vandana Shiva's central insight that both UNEP and civil society have a lot to gain by working together is as true now as it was five years ago. And there is no time to lose: the planet's ecosystems are under severe stress, and problems such as climate change, atmospheric pollution, land degradation, freshwater scarcity, and the loss of biological diversity on land and sea pose major challenges to all countries and people.

But environmental problems are not only threats; they also present enormous opportunities. We have spent the 20th century discovering how we destroy the environment. We should use the 21st century to learn how we can survive and thrive with the environment at the heart of our economic development aspirations.

Responding effectively to today's pressing environmental challenges will require the full and effective participation of all sectors of society. UNEP has placed particular emphasis in recent years in reaching out to the nine Major Groups, first recognised at the Rio "Earth Summit": Business and Industry, Children and Youth, Farmers, Indigenous Peoples and their Communities, Local Authorities, Non-Governmental Organizations, the Scientific and Technological Community, Women, and Workers and their Trade Unions. Our new Medium-Term Strategy takes to heart the challenge of working in partnership with civil society to implement UNEP's Programme of Work in six priority issue areas: Climate Change, Disasters and Conflict, Ecosystem Management, Environmental Governance, Harmful Substances and Hazardous Wastes, and Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Natural Allies provides a clear picture of how civil society can and does work with UNEP, both benefiting from and strengthening UNEP's programme of work. The publication is targeted at civil society and should be read from a civil society point of view. Its purpose is to provide answers to your questions about UNEP. I hope the book also provokes in readers a desire to participate in UNEP's work and enables organisations and individuals to gain the maximum benefit from UNEP's commitment to working closely with civil society. My sincere wish is that this book will contribute to assisting civil society catalyse the political and social changes that are needed if we are to accelerate a transition to a resource efficient, low carbon, sustainable Green Economy in the 21st century.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Achim Steiner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Achim Steiner
UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director



Chapter 1:

UNEP and Civil Society

© Mirian Fichter-UNEP / Still Pictures, Commuters: Walking over footbridge over congested road, Japan

This chapter contains general information on UNEP and the contextual framework for engagement with civil society. UNEP is a UN organisation governed by member states with a secretariat charged with responsibility for carrying out member states' decisions.

Today's pressing global challenges require the United Nations to be more than just an intergovernmental forum; it must engage a broad range of others actors as well, as underscored by the 2004 Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations–Civil Society Relations, entitled *We the Peoples: Civil Society, the United Nations and Global Governance*. (See <http://www.un-ngls.org/edited%20advance%20report%20of%20SG%20on%20Cardoso.pdf>.)

The views, expertise, and actions of civil society organisations are fundamental in any environment and sustainable development strategy. At the international, national, and local levels they play a critical role in changing on-the-ground realities and improving environmental quality and people's lives.

There are many different ways for civil society and major groups to become involved in UNEP's work at both the policy and the programmatic level, as detailed below and in subsequent chapters of this report.

UNEP's Mandate and Evolving Priorities

Established in 1972, UNEP's mission is: "To provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations."

In response to changing internal and external conditions, UNEP has recently developed a new Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) to guide the organisation's work between 2010 and 2013. In February 2008, UNEP's member-governments authorised the UNEP Executive Director to use this draft strategy in developing the organisation's future programme of work. (For further information, see http://www.unep.org/civil_society/GCSF9/pdfs/MTS-GCSS-X-8-ProposedStrategy.pdf.)

The overall vision of UNEP incorporated into the MTS is for UNEP "to be the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, that promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimensions of sustainable development within the United Nations system and that serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment."

The Medium-Term Strategy is based upon UNEP's mandate, which has continually evolved since the creation of UNEP in 1972. Most recently, UNEP's Governing Council adopted the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building (the Bali Strategic Plan) in February 2005. The goal of the Bali Strategic Plan is to strengthen technology support and capacity building, or human capital, in both developing countries and countries in economic transition. It provides a framework for co-operation between UNEP, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), and other bodies engaged in environmental capacity building, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), civil society, and other relevant stakeholders. (For further information, see <http://www.unep.org/DEC/OnLineManual/Compliance/NationalImplementation/CapacityBuilding/Resource/tabid/679/Default.aspx>.)

The UNEP Medium-Term Strategy defines the following five primary roles as central to UNEP's mandate:

- Keeping the world environmental situation under review;
- Catalysing and promoting international co-operation and action;
- Providing policy advice and early warning information, based upon sound science and assessments;
- Facilitating the development, implementation, and evolution of norms and standards and developing coherent interlinkages among international environmental conventions;
- Strengthening technology support and capacity in line with country needs and priorities.

The MTS took account of broader international developments in considering UNEP's current role. For example, it notes that the international community is now working towards sustainable

development as a result of the outcomes of the “Earth Summit” held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. It also points out that there is renewed focus on the future evolution of international environmental governance within the United Nations system itself, including calls for greater coherence within the United Nations system and an increased focus on the role of civil society and the private sector, on being responsive to country-level priorities, and on results-based management.

The Medium-Term Strategy reorients UNEP’s Programme of Work around six thematic issue priorities: Climate Change, Disasters and Conflict, Ecosystem Management, Environmental Governance, Harmful Substances and Hazardous Wastes, and Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production.

The MTS also discusses a range of tools and institutional mechanisms for implementing its priorities and objectives. Regarding stakeholder participation, for example, the MTS notes that UNEP will further strengthen its co-operation with civil society and the private sector, and that it will engage the full range of major groups and non-governmental actors, including those active at the local, national, regional, or global levels, and those oriented towards advocacy, research, and business.

The MTS also calls for UNEP to move towards a strategic presence model, based on UNEP deploying its staff and resources more strategically in response to regional and country needs and to enable UNEP to work more effectively with the rest of the UN system and with other partners. Towards this end, the MTS calls for strengthening the role of UNEP’s regional offices. It also emphasises the importance of integrating gender equality and equity in all of UNEP’s policies, programmes, and projects and within its institutional structures and in the work that UNEP undertakes with its various partners and other United Nations agencies.

The Role of UNEP’s Secretariat

UNEP’s Secretariat is composed of about 600 staff members. More than half of them are hired internationally and the rest are recruited locally. The Secretariat is charged with the implementation of the member states’ decisions. It manages an annual budget of approximately US\$180 million, most of which is contributed by governments.¹

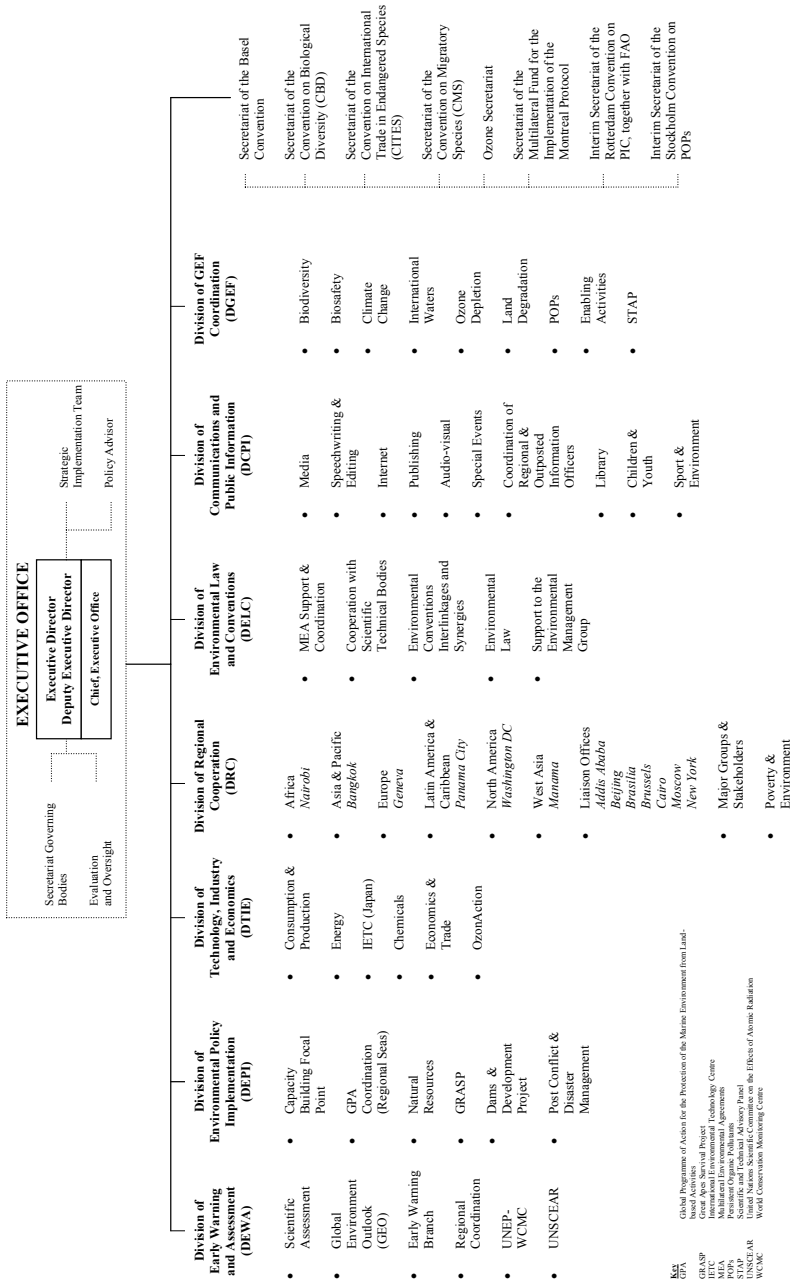
¹ Figures based on 2008–2009 numbers provided in Report of the Executive Director, Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, “Proposed biennial programme and support budgets for 2010–2011.”

UNEP’s budget comes from four sources:

- The Environment Fund (43%), voluntary funds contributed by governments to finance UNEP activities.
- Trust Funds (36%), voluntary funds contributed by governments to finance specific UNEP activities.
- Earmarked contributions (16%), voluntary funds from governments, UN agencies, other organisations, and individuals, and earmarked for specific activities.
- UN Regular Budget (4%), compulsory funds provided by UN General Assembly.

CHAPTER 1: UNEP AND CIVIL SOCIETY

UNEP's headquarters is located in Nairobi, Kenya. The organisation also has six regional offices as well as several national offices and collaborating centres. (See Organigram.)



The Executive Office houses the Office of the Executive Director and that of the Deputy Executive as well as the office of Evaluation and Oversight, a Strategic Implementation Team, and the Secretariat of the Governing Bodies (SGB).

The Secretariat of the Governing Bodies (SGB) provides a link between the UNEP Secretariat and the organisation's member governments. The SGB provides information to governments on UNEP activities, prepares and organises the Governing Council, and assists the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR). The latter is a subsidiary organ of the Governing Council, whose membership is open to Permanent Representatives accredited to UNEP from members of the UN and its specialised agencies.

UNEP's seven main divisions are:

- Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA)
- Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI)
- Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELCL)
- Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE)
- Division of Communication and Public Information (DCPI)
- Division of the Global Environmental Facility (DGEF)
- Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC)

The Division of Early Warning and Assessment's mission is to provide the world community with improved access to meaningful environmental data and information, and to help increase the capacity of governments to use environmental information for decision making and action planning for sustainable human development. Scientific assessments produced by DEWA provide the basis for governmental discussions.

At the request of governments, UNEP helps to develop international or national policies and laws in response to environmental concerns. Once these are developed, the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation assists governments with implementing these policies and laws at the international level, as well as in their own nation states. The Division of Environmental Law and Conventions promotes the progressive development and implementation of environmental law and supports the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including promoting attention to interlinkages and synergies among them. The three Divisions—DEWA, DEPI, and DELCL—cooperate closely to ensure coherence between the state of scientific knowledge, the development of environmental policy and law, and implementation efforts.

The Division of Technology, Industry and Economics works to encourage decision-makers in governments, local authorities, and industries to develop and implement policies, strategies, and practices that are cleaner and safer; make efficient use of natural resources; ensure environmentally sound management of chemicals; reduce pollution and risks for humans and the environment; enable implementation of conventions and international agreements; and incorporate environmental costs.

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DTIE is composed of a Production and Consumption Branch, an Energy Branch, and an OzonAction Branch based in Paris; a Chemicals Branch and an Economics and Trade Branch based in Geneva; and an International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) based in Osaka.

The Division of Communication and Public Information serves as UNEP's voice. DCPI works to raise UNEP's profile and to influence attitudes, behaviour, and decisions related to the local and global environment. It disseminates the environmental message through the media, the Internet, and audiovisual and printed products, as well as through a wide variety of events, awards, and partnerships.

The Division of the Global Environmental Facility executes UNEP's role in the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), a financial mechanism established as a partnership by UNDP, the World Bank, and UNEP. As an Implementing Agency of the GEF, UNEP provides the Secretariat to the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the GEF, corporate support to the GEF (for example, in the development of policy or operational guidance), and oversees the development and implementation of a broad range of eligible projects.

The Division of Regional Cooperation coordinates the delivery of the programmes of work at the regional and national levels. DRC includes some staff based at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi as well as that of the organisation's six regional offices:

- Regional Office for Africa (ROA)
- Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)
- Regional Office for Europe (ROE)
- Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)
- Regional Office for North America (RONA)
- Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA)

Defining Civil Society and Major Groups

Agenda 21, adopted by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992, grants special recognition to nine "major groups" and encourages their involvement in international efforts to promote environmental protection and sustainable development. For further information, see <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/english/agenda21toc.htm>.

The nine Major Groups are:

- Business and Industry
- Children and Youth
- Farmers
- Indigenous Peoples and their Communities
- Local Authorities

- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Women
- Workers and Trade Unions

Several of these constituencies are well organised through representational membership organisations spanning the national and global levels. Some Major Groups focus on well-defined issues, while others address a much broader array of concerns. The challenge for both civil society organisations and for UNEP is to develop a process that respects and gives voice to the diverse views of Major Group representatives while at the same time structuring Major Group input in such a way that it can effectively inform the inter-governmental process.

UNEP seeks to engage the full range of non-governmental actors: local, national, and international; for-profit² and non-profit; and advocacy, research, and business oriented. Consistent with the UN definition of Major Groups and the purpose of this guidebook, the term “civil society” used throughout is inclusive and should be understood in the broadest sense possible. In particular, it is understood in this context to encompass all nine of the UN-recognised Major Groups.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) can be differentiated according to their functions, including the following primary categories:

- **Service Delivery** – Organisations that develop, monitor, and implement projects and programmes or services; these CSOs are often based at the grassroots level or work closely with community-based organisations (CBOs).
- **Representation** – Organisations that aggregate citizen voices; these include CSO umbrella and network organisations and indigenous peoples’ groups.
- **Advocacy and Policy Input** – Organisations that provide expertise and lobby on particular issues; these include think-tanks, research-oriented institutions, and “watchdog” institutions.
- **Capacity Building** – Organisations that provide support to other CSOs, including funding, training, and raising awareness; these institutions include foundations and major NGOs.
- **Social Functions** – Organisations that foster collective social activities, including religious groups.

Many CSOs, such as indigenous peoples’ networks and their communities or local authorities, fall into more than one category as they carry out different functions.

The primary way in which UNEP engages with the diverse members of civil society is through networks and organisations that have the capacity to interact with UNEP. For example, rather than working directly with a particular rural community, UNEP engages with umbrella organisations that represent this constituency.

² The term “for-profit” encompasses profit-making companies, enterprises, corporations, as well as federations of corporate interests, but not trade unions. The term “private sector” includes profit-making companies and their federations.

A Brief History of Civil Society Engagement in UNEP

In response to public pressure, governments organised the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference) in 1972, which led to UNEP's creation. A large NGO Forum took place alongside the Conference.

UNEP developed an NGO section in 1973, charged with the task of collaboration with civil society, especially in outreach activities to raise public awareness. Civil society was, therefore, involved in the definition of the pillars that continue to structure UNEP: scientific assessment, policy and law, and public information.

In 1974, UNEP backed the establishment of the Environment Liaison Centre International (ELCI), an NGO designed to serve as a focal point for liaison between NGOs across the world and UNEP. UNEP's links with civil society also included drawing expertise from it. For example, UNEP's first Executive Director, Maurice Strong, is a well-known figure from civil society.

Since 1974, UNEP and civil society have developed positive relationships, which culminated in 1992 with the Earth Summit in Rio. Attended by many thousands of NGOs, the Summit was an outstanding success. Two outcomes of this conference—the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21 (a ten-year programme for sustainable development)—consecrated the Major Groups as necessary partners to achieve sustainable development.

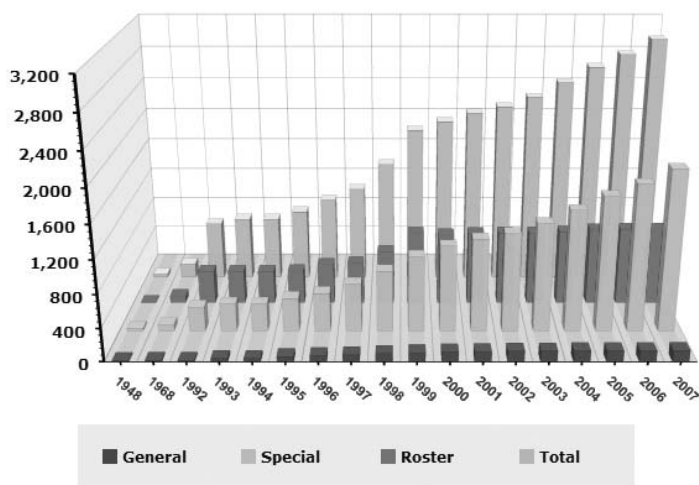
Catalysed by the impressive CSO presence at the Earth Summit, CSO mobilisation gained speed in other conferences in the following decade, including the Vienna Human Rights Summit (1993), the Cairo Population Summit (1994), the Beijing Women's Summit (1995), the Istanbul Summit on Human Settlement (1996), and the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002).

Established at the Earth Summit in 1992 as an intergovernmental policy forum on sustainable development, the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) became a primary major venue for CSOs to incorporate their views into policy debates surrounding sustainable development. Economic and development organisations such as UNDP, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization (WTO) have also sought to engage civil society in their work. Moreover, the maturation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) has provided opportunities for civil society to interact with governments on specific issues, such as climate change, biological diversity, and desertification.

The diversification and strengthening of civil society, which emerged as a key actor in the global environment in the 1990s, bodes well for strengthening the environmental pillar of sustainable development. UN agencies have greatly benefited from the strengthening of civil society and its multiple contributions to the environmental field, including in the areas of advocacy, monitoring, public awareness raising, and scientific assessment. By 2007, more than 3,000 CSOs were accredited

to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), more than triple the number at the time of the Earth Summit. (See Figure 1.)

Figure 1. CSOs Accredited to ECOSOC, by Type, 1948–2007



Source: <http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/>

UNEP responded to the growing involvement of civil society in UN activities by organising an annual Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) in conjunction with UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum. The First GCSF was convened in May 2000 in Malmö, Sweden, and it has been held annually every year since then. The GCSF has become the main entry point for the participation of Major Groups in UNEP's work at the governance level.

UNEP also developed a Strategy Paper Enhancing Civil Society Engagement in the Work of the United Nations Environment Programme that was presented to the 22nd UNEP Governing Council in February 2003. The strategy is based on three interdependent pillars:

1. **Strengthening institutional management.** The goal is to facilitate transparent and meaningful communication between civil society and UNEP, using Internet-based technologies, and to build internal and external capacity mechanisms for civil society to interact with UNEP.
2. **Promoting Engagement at the Policy Level.** The goal is to take into account civil society expertise and views when governments are discussing UNEP's work programme and when governments are discussing major environmental issues.
3. **Encouraging Engagement at the Programmatic Level.** The goal is to involve civil society when UNEP implements its work programme.

In 2004, UNEP further enhanced participation of civil society in its work by creating the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch to implement the multi-pronged strategy described above. The Branch's responsibilities include coordinating UNEP's communication with Major Groups and stakeholders, promoting the active participation of Major Groups and stakeholders in UNEP's work, organising and coordinating the Global Civil Society Forum, maintaining a website, and promoting regional co-operation and networking.

Another step forward was taken in 2008 with the introduction of new Guidelines on Improving the Global Civil Society Cycle that aim to create a balanced and actively facilitated framework for managing Major Groups' input to the UNEP governance process. The guidelines created a Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC) charged with oversight of this task. The MGFC is composed of representatives of each of the nine Major Groups as well as two representatives from each of the six regions where UNEP has offices (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and West Asia). The guidelines are available online at http://www.unep.org/civil_society/PDF_docs/Guidelines-Round1-CSO-revised-31Mar08.pdf.

Avenues for Civil Society Participation in UNEP

When governments are making Governing Council decisions or discussing major environmental policies, it is in their own interest to take into account civil society views to ensure sound environmental governance. Intergovernmental decisions will have stronger and broader recognition and support by the public if governments take civil society views into account as early as possible in the policymaking decision process. Civil society also plays a direct role in the formation of policy as researchers, think-tanks, and watchdogs, or through advocacy. Open political decision-making processes enhance transparency, foster coordination among organisations taking part in environmental governance, and foster accountability of the actors in their decisions. In addition, participation of civil society in governance strengthens the environmental pillar in relation to the social and economic pillars of the sustainable development paradigm.

Recognizing the crucial role of civil society, member governments have endorsed UNEP's annual practice of organising a Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) in conjunction with the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF). The GCSF aims to inform civil society stakeholders of current and future UNEP policy and to provide a forum where representatives from Major Groups can exchange views and develop common ground. The GCSF also prepares Major Groups' representatives to participate actively in the deliberations of the Governing Council and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum itself, including in recently introduced small ministerial roundtables and in the plenary sessions.

For more information about civil society in UNEP's governance and policy process, see Chapter 2. CSOs can also help to implement UNEP's work programme, complementing UNEP's own

capabilities. Civil society strengths include the ability to raise funds and play a proactive role in the design, implementation, and monitoring of a range of projects and programmes related to the environment. Civil society organisations working on specific environmental areas can adapt the global UNEP work programme to national or local realities, and liaise between UNEP and local communities. Civil society can also function as an ever-alert environmental watchdog, holding governments accountable for their actions. In addition, civil society can provide scientific, policy, and law expertise necessary for implementation.

Civil society is well placed to raise public awareness and engage the general public in an informative and educative manner. Many civil society organisations have close ties to the media and can disseminate relevant information effectively. Civil society can also educate the public, through schools, universities, and scientific institutions, or through targeted campaigns, to raise the awareness of new generations about their roles and duties so that they become responsible citizens.

For more information about opportunities for civil society to participate in UNEP's work programme, see Chapters 3–6.

The Bali Strategic Plan of 2005 mandated UNEP to increase delivery and coordination of capacity building and technology support at the national level. To achieve this, UNEP is increasing engagement with civil society at the local level through:

- **Promoting success stories** that are global or regional, and which specifically address sound environmental practices. For example, UNEP has developed an online database of best practices where civil society can select and promote case studies.
- **Supporting pilot projects** to test policy and demonstrate how new policies can be implemented or improved. These pilot projects have helped UNEP to develop long-term comprehensive capacity-building programmes with regional and country focus. For example, UNEP has supported pilot projects related to rainwater harvesting and management, renewable energy technologies, and integrated management of river basins.
- **Developing core training programmes and educational materials.** For example, UNEP prepared a training course for policymakers in the use of economic instruments in environmental management for sustainable development and undertook the project "Living Wealth of Africa" to develop educational materials for biodiversity conservation. These programmes are developed with and implemented through national, sub-regional, and regional CSOs.
- **Testing and developing guidelines** for implementing environmental policy at the national, sub-regional, and regional levels. The guidelines help to translate policy into action. For example, the guidelines on empowering women in water resources management could assist countries in implementing environmental policy governing water resources, as well as advancing objectives of gender equality.

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- **Providing support to networking.** For example, UNEP has established a network of African journalists interested in environmental reporting that builds their capacity to continue reporting. UNEP has helped identify and link trainers of trainers from different institutions. UNEP helps them stay in touch and communicate through a newsletter.



Chapter 2:

Civil Society Participation in International Environmental Policy

© UNEP, 9th GCSF (2008): A platform for exchange and consultation on key environmental issues to be addressed during the GC/GMEF, Principality of Monaco

This chapter provides information for civil society representatives about how they can interact with government representatives at the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, where member governments undertake policy discussions and make decisions related to the management of global environmental issues. It also provides information about how to engage with Multilateral Environmental Agreements, which have close links with UNEP.

Participating in the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF)

UNEP's Governing Council (GC) is composed of 58 Member States elected by the UN General Assembly for four-year terms, based on the principle of equitable regional representation. The UNEP GC functions like a "board of directors" for UNEP. The main functions and responsibilities of the Governing Council consist of deciding on the nature of UNEP's work programme, on its budgetary allocation, and on promoting international policy co-operation in the field of the environment. In practice, all Member States of the UN system can have a say regarding UNEP's work, and the 58 Member States of the GC have a specific role only when a decision is to be adopted by vote, which is seldom the case.

CHAPTER 2: CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Every other year, UNEP holds a week-long regular session of the Governing Council in Nairobi. In this session, the GC makes decisions on UNEP's work programme and budgetary allocation for the following two years. Since 2000, UNEP has also organised biennial special sessions of the GC in between the regular sessions that take the form of three-day sessions. In addition to approving UNEP's budget and Programme of Work, the GC also takes decisions about needed actions related to a broad range of environmental policy issues. In recent years, for instance, it has made decisions aimed at promoting better management of chemicals, controlling mercury pollution, assessing the health of the global marine environment, shifting to more sustainable production and consumption patterns, addressing the links between poverty and the environment, and strengthening UNEP's scientific base.

The Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) is convened annually alongside the GC regular and special sessions as a forum where environment ministers from around the world review important and emerging environmental policy issues. UNEP uses the term GC/GMEF, to designate a meeting of both the GC and the Ministerial Forum. The GC/GMEF special session agenda normally focuses on current global environmental policy issues that are high on the international agenda.

International non-governmental organisations (INGOs) can be accredited to participate in the GC/GMEF. The participation of INGOs in the Governing Council is addressed in Rule 69 of the Rules of Procedures of the UNEP Governing Council. (See Box 1.)

Box 1. Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council Chapter XIII. Observers of International Non-governmental Organisations. Role 69

1. International non-governmental organisations having an interest in the field of the environment, referred to in section IV, paragraph 5, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), may designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs, if any. The Governing Council shall from time to time adopt and revise when necessary a list of such organisations. Upon the invitation of the President or Chairman, as the case may be, and subject to the approval of the Governing Council or the subsidiary organ concerned, international nongovernmental organisations may take oral statements on matters within the scope of their activities.
2. Written statements provided by international non-governmental organisations referred to in paragraph 1 above, related to items on the agenda of the Governing Council or of its subsidiary organs, shall be circulated by the secretariat to members of the Governing Council or of the subsidiary organ concerned in the quantities and in the languages in which the statements were made available to the secretariat for distribution.

More than 200 civil society organisations are currently accredited to UNEP. Any CSO that meets the criteria stipulated in Rule 69 can seek accreditation, following the procedure described in Box 2.

Box 2. Steps for Civil Society Accreditation to UNEP

- 1) NGO submits a set of papers to the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch of UNEP showing proof of its interest in becoming accredited and proper documentation of its nongovernmental, international, and environmental focus.

These papers include:

- Letter requesting accreditation.
 - Copy of constitution, charter, statutes, or by-laws with all amendments and list of affiliated organisations.
 - Copy or certificate of registration.
 - Proof of interest in the environment (papers, reports, press releases, etc.).
 - Detailed account of organisation's international scope (location of headquarters, programs, international activities, etc.).
- 2) The Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch of the Division of Regional Cooperation reviews the submission and determines if any additional documents are required. If so, it notifies the organisation.
 - 3) When the review is complete, the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch sends the documentation and its recommendation to the office of the Secretariat for Governing Bodies.
 - 4) The Secretariat for Governing Bodies notifies the organisation of its decision.
 - 5) The Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch updates its database with the new organisation's information, sending a confirmation e-mail to the organisation.

The process takes approximately three months.

For further information, see http://www.unep.org/civil_society/About/accreditation.asp.

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The Secretariat for Governing Bodies, which is responsible for the organisation of the GC/GMEF, will automatically invite the accredited INGO to participate in the GC/GMEF as an observer. The INGO then has to send back the list of representatives planning to attend.

In the process leading up to sessions of the GC/GMEF, accredited Major Group organisations receive unedited working documents of the GC/GMEF at the same time as the Committee of the Permanent Representatives. Accredited organisations are also able to submit to the UNEP Secretariat written contributions to these unedited working documents for distribution to the governments.

While the GC/GMEF is under way, accredited Major Group organisations are entitled to attend the plenary, the Committee of the Whole, and the Ministerial Consultations discussions as observers; to circulate written statements to governments through the UNEP Secretariat; and to make oral statements during the discussions of the GC/MEF at the invitation of the chairperson.

In recent years, Major Groups representatives have also participated in ministerial roundtable discussions and upon invitation by the Secretariat have served as keynote speakers for the ministerial deliberations. Major Groups representatives have also hosted side events in the “Green Room” facility provided for their use.

Policy Statements to the GC/GMEF

Major Groups have the opportunity to present collective policy statements to the GC/GMEF. UNEP’s new Guidelines for Improving the Global Civil Society Forum stipulate that the Major Groups representatives to the Major Groups Facilitating Committee will play a central role in the preparation of policy statements. In particular, the guidelines foresee three possible scenarios related to the development of policy statements:

Scenario 1 – Each of the Major Groups representatives coordinates the effort, and consults a global electronic constituency to help make the text final. The Major Group representatives may decide to join forces with other Major Group representatives to produce joint statements.

The Major Group representative writes the paper, or assigns the writing to experts, and solicits support or critical comments from UNEP-accredited organisations belonging to his/her constituency. The solicitation is done via the Internet through the methodology of ‘electronic’ hearings, and the Major Group representative brings in, at the group’s own discretion, arguments that have come in through the hearing, and finalises the paper. This is then the global paper representing the Major Group.

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Scenario 2 – Each of the Major Groups representatives prepares background positions, but allows various Major Group constituencies at the regional meetings to produce a final statement if they so choose either as a distinct Major Group or in collaboration with other Major Groups.

The Major Group representative prepares background position papers, and allows each of the regional meetings to prepare the final text during the regional meetings.

Scenario 3 – Each of the Major Groups representatives invites a peer group from within their own Major Group to write the policy positions based on the discussion at the regional meeting, and the peer group finalises the text. The Major Group representatives may choose to join forces with other Major Group representatives to produce joint statements.

The Major Group representative will seek out the best possible persons from the organisational unit within the group's constituency to write the final policy paper based on detailed reports from each of the six regions. The peer group then edits and combines each of these reports into one global report representing that particular Major Group. Regional policy statements will still be included as official documents if deemed appropriate by the regions.

The Guidelines stipulate that Scenarios 1, 2, or 3 should be adopted according to each Major Group's preference, noting that these scenarios constitute a good transition from a purely regional model towards a model where the Major Groups play a more significant role. They also note that there may be substantial commonality in views between many if not all Major Groups and that joint statements among multiple Major Groups may thus be possible and should be encouraged.

UNEP's Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) and the Regional Civil Society Consultations

The GCSF is a one to two day event that takes place immediately prior to each GC/GMEF. Agenda items for the GCSF are the same as those on the ministerial agenda. The objective of the GCSF is to provide a platform for exchange and consultation on key environmental issues to be addressed by the member states during the GC/GMEF and to facilitate Major Groups' contribution to the GC/GMEF and other international environmental forums.

UNEP provides relevant information in advance. CSOs are encouraged to gather their views at the regional level and to consult scientific information available from the UNEP website and other sources. The Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch coordinates the preparation and execution of the GCSF, in co-operation with UNEP's Regional Offices and the Secretariat for Governing Bodies.

About 190 participants representing CSOs from 42 countries attended the 2008 Global Civil Society Forum. All UNEP-accredited CSOs are invited to participate in the Forum at their own

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expense. In addition, UNEP sponsors approximately 30 other participants to attend, 24 of whom are selected at regional preparatory consultations. In selecting sponsored participants, important criteria include gender, Major Groups, and geographical balance. In addition, the participation of civil society representatives from the host region is encouraged.

Prior to the GCSF, each UNEP region facilitates a regional CSO consultation. UNEP provides discussion papers to promote meaningful dialogue. To reinforce the scientific basis of the discussion, regional offices cooperate with other UNEP science-related officers posted within each region to provide relevant information to CSOs.

The regional civil society consultations are not ends in themselves. They aim to channel regional civil society input into the GCSF and the GC/GMEF. The regional consultations also are a tool for strengthening the relationships between UNEP's regional offices and civil society and for building regional networks of CSOs around important environmental policy issues.

The two regional representatives to the UNEP Major Groups Facilitating Committee are elected at the regional meetings for two-year terms. In addition, two technical experts are selected each year at the regional meeting to participate in the Global Civil Society Forum and the GC/GMEF.

For further information about the regional consultations, see http://www.unep.org/civil_society/GCSF10/regionalconsult-gcsf10.asp.

Exploring New Approaches

The GCSF and the direct participation of civil society at the GC/GMEF is currently the main entry point for civil society participation in UNEP at the governance level. Other possible types of interaction include the following:

Civil society expert meetings to assist the CPR

The Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) is composed of all the government representatives to UNEP. The CPR monitors implementation of UNEP's work programme and also drafts the decisions that will be used to further the UNEP work programme. In order to better inform the preparation of new decisions, the strategy paper on enhancing civil society engagement within the work of UNEP proposed that civil society representatives could address the CPR at its sessions.

Inclusion of civil society representatives in governmental delegations

Some governments include representatives from CSOs in their delegations, including NGOs, members of the scientific community, academics, and parliamentarians. Doing so increases understanding between civil society and governments at the national level and enhances the transparency and accountability. Sometimes governments provide financial support for civil society representatives included on their delegations.

Civil Society Engagement with the Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Civil society and Major Groups engagement with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) is also needed in order to strengthen the effectiveness of international environmental governance). UNEP works with many different MEAs and hosts the secretariats for MEAs covering biodiversity, chemicals and hazardous wastes, migratory species, ozone depletion, regional seas, and trade in endangered species.

Secretariats have responsibility for convening the Conferences of the Parties (COPs), where the governmental parties to the MEA adopt policies and goals to track compliance and promote implementation; for convening expert panels to advise the parties on ways of achieving the targets set up by the COPs; for helping to implement programmes to reach the goals of the agreement; and for reporting on the status of implementation.

CSOs can actively support the work of the secretariats and the governments in the design, execution, and monitoring of activities for effective implementation of the MEAs. For example, the rapid entry into force and implementation of the Aarhus Convention can be attributed to the role of civil society. Participation of civil society in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or in the Mediterranean Action Plan, two of the most proactive MEAs to engage CSOs, is enlightening on how to incorporate civil society participation at all levels in the implementation of a MEA.

CSOs can participate at the Conferences of the Parties as observers, which means that the CSOs can come to the meeting, sit, and listen. For example, the UNFCCC has a roster of more than 1,000 CSOs accredited as observers. CSOs can usually provide written and oral statements to the plenary. They are normally allowed a slot at the opening, and in some COPs they can read statements from the floor: these include the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the UNFCCC, the Montreal Protocol, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). For example, at the Montreal Protocol COPs, Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace regularly make statements of global public concern.

Being an observer at MEA negotiations enables civil society to:

- Work through its own government to try and include its views in the intergovernmental debate;
- Lobby before and during the session, contribute to daily newsletters, and attend briefings provided by governments for CSOs (the European Union and United States do this regularly);
- Hold side events to launch publications or initiatives relevant to the implementation of the conventions;
- Take note and be a neutral observer of the meeting, making its own government accountable for the actions taken when implementing the MEA.

For information on how to become an observer to a particular MEA negotiation, CSO representatives should contact the relevant secretariat directly. The secretariat handles administrative matters and can provide information about accreditation procedures. The criteria are generally two-fold: first, the CSO has to provide proof of being non-profit; second, the CSO has to demonstrate interest in the particular field of the MEA.

Civil society representatives can also become involved with MEAs by serving on expert panels. There are different technical panels of experts in relation to each MEA. These include technical and economic panels, environmental effect panels, and scientific assessment panels. The panels provide technical views, information on economic implications, or scientific information necessary for governments to make properly informed decisions. Governments select experts proposed by the secretariat. Individuals from NGOs, the private sector, and research centres typically have strong expertise in a specific environmental field and are often selected.

There are two main avenues for nomination as an expert. A CSO can propose a name to the secretariat of the MEA or work through governments to propose a name. In either case, the secretariat will then seek intergovernmental endorsement at the COP. The secretariat maintains a roster of these experts, and can contact them directly to receive their views as a panelist.

To assist civil society representatives in their efforts to engage with MEAs, UNEP released a handbook in 2007 called *Negotiating and Implementing MEAs: A Manual for NGOs*, produced in co-operation with Earth Media, Stakeholder Forum, and Centro de Estudios Ambientales. The manual examines the intersection between MEA formulation and the civil societies that affect and are affected by MEAs. While the manual includes extensive background on both MEAs and NGOs, its primary focus is educating stakeholders on how to understand and negotiate these treaties. It includes chapters devoted to topics such as navigating MEA meetings, utilizing the Internet, implementing MEAs, and procuring funding. The publication is available online at <http://www.unep.org/delc/docs/MEAs%20Final.pdf>.

Cooperating with the UN System at Large

Interaction between the United Nations and civil society has grown significantly in the past decade. Thousands of NGOs now have formal consultative status. Their contribution has enriched the debates and influenced the outcomes of many intergovernmental deliberations. Due to the scale and number of diverse interactions, there is a pressing need for better ways of organising the relationship between the UN system and civil society.

We the Peoples: Civil Society, the United Nations and Global Governance, the 2004 report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations–Civil Society Relations appointed by then-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, provides a set of practical recommendations on how to improve the UN's relationship with civil society and with the private sector, parliaments, and other non-governmental actors. Given UNEP's focus on "environment for development," it is important for UNEP to cooperate in civil society engagement efforts with other multilateral agencies working on environmental, social, and economic issues, including UNDP, the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization. This co-operation will assist civil society in its efforts to engage meaningfully with these organisations, avoid duplication of efforts, and strengthen civil society input into the international policy development process.

Strong links with the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) are central to these efforts. Established in 1975, NGLS is the key contact point between the wider UN system and NGOs. The NGLS secretariats in Geneva and New York are voluntarily funded by programmes (such as UNEP) and specialised agencies in the UN system, and by bilateral agencies and foundations. They have done a great deal to interpret the UN system and its work for civil society and to facilitate CSO engagement in its activities—in particular by mobilizing and administering resources for developing countries—as well as NGO participation in major conferences. NGLS also advises agencies across the system on their civil society strategies and convenes occasional informal meetings of NGO focal points to discuss common challenges and share experiences. For more information, see <http://www.un-ngls.org>.

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Chapter 3:

Civil Society Participation in the Implementation of UNEP's Programme of Work

© Vu Hai-UNEP / Still Pictures, Planting Trees: The Infertile soil is returning to life, Vietnam, Lap Thach, Vinh Phuc Province

Decisions taken by governments at UNEP's Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) serve as the basis for UNEP's Programme of Work. Many UNEP Governing Council Decisions call for active civil society participation in UNEP's work, as this involvement is necessary for strong results given civil society's scientific and legal expertise as well as its outreach abilities and in some cases its financial resources. For further information about the annual GC/GMEF, including background documentation and decisions taken, see <http://www.unep.org/resources/gov/>.

As civil society organisations seek to develop future collaborative activities with UNEP, they should consider how the work they are interested in undertaking would support Governing Council decisions as well as the overall objectives for the six thematic priorities established in UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy: Climate Change, Disasters and Conflict, Ecosystem Management, Environmental Governance, Harmful Substances and Hazardous Wastes, and Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Climate Change

On Climate Change, the MTS identifies UNEP's overall objective as: to strengthen the ability of countries to integrate climate change responses into national development processes.

Consistent with the UNFCCC and within the broader UN approach for dealing with climate change, the objectives and expected accomplishments focus on providing environmental leadership in the four areas prominent in the international response to climate change: adaptation, mitigation, technology, and finance. The work of UNEP will complement other processes and the work of other institutions and will emphasise the substantial co-benefits of climate change actions and their contribution to environmental sustainability. This will include efforts to create enabling environments at the national level through the promotion of national legislative, economic, and institutional frameworks that are adequate to address the climate change challenges.

UNEP will assist vulnerable states to adapt to a changing climate by building resilience in sectors of national priority with a special focus on national, subnational, and city level assessments, ecosystems management, economic incentives, disaster preparedness and supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In the area of mitigation, UNEP will support countries to make a transition towards societies based on more efficient use of energy, energy conservation, and utilisation of cleaner energy sources, with a focus on renewable energy, and on improved land management.

UNEP is already undertaking several important climate change initiatives in co-operation with Major Groups, including those described below.

On the issue of biofuels, UNEP is partnering with governments, industries, and civil societies through the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) to create a set of criteria and recommendations to ensure that biofuels are sustainable. This list of criteria will allow governments, investors, and decision-makers to evaluate biofuels in a consistent and standardised manner. The principles informing this process include considerations such as biodiversity, climate change, water consumption, land use, and ensuring proper labor conditions. To ensure that the principles and criteria of sustainable biofuel production reflect the views of civil society, UNEP has organised three regional outreach meetings, one in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, in October 2007, one in Shanghai, China, in November 2007, and one in New Delhi, India, in June 2008.

For further information, see <http://www.unep.fr/energy/activities/rsb/> and <http://www.unep.fr/energy/bioenergy/documents/pdf/VersionZero.pdf>.

Another ongoing climate change initiative being carried out with the active co-operation of Business and Industry is the Caring for Climate Network, a voluntary network of businesses committed to climate action launched in 2007 that now has signatories from over 200 companies in 48 countries. The group's platform, launched by UNEP, the UN Global Compact, and the World Business Council, calls on its members to promote energy-efficient practices, engage with national governments, cooperate and share information, and champion active responses to the dangers of climate change. The platform also calls on governments to create financial and legislative frameworks to harness the power of the market to combat climate change and to invest in public projects designed to address climate challenges. Finally, the compact calls for co-operation and coordination between the private and public sectors as well as the United Nations. At the Global Compact Leader Summit in 2007, the three groups sponsoring the **Caring for Climate Network** released a book entitled *Caring for Climate: Tomorrow's Leadership Today*. This book contains a collection of best practices from businesses participating in the network and examples of success stories from a variety of industries involved in fighting climate change.

For further information, see http://www.unglobalcompact.org/docs/news_events/8.1/caring_for_climate.pdf and <http://www.globalcompactsummit.org/docs/UNGC07-CaringForClimate.pdf>.

Disasters and Conflict

On Disasters and Conflict, the MTS identifies UNEP's overall objective as: *to minimise environmental threats to human well-being arising from the environmental causes and consequences of conflicts and disasters*.

Within this priority area of work, UNEP will play a leadership role in building national capacity to minimise threats to human well-being arising from the environmental causes and consequences of conflicts and disasters. The desire for greater coherence in the UN system and the Bali Strategic Plan offer an important opportunity to play this role and to develop an integrated approach to disasters and conflicts, spanning the key pillars of risk reduction, post-crisis environmental assessments, and environmental recovery. This work will contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015³.

Within these pillars, UNEP will emphasise the importance of addressing environmental risks and vulnerabilities as a prerequisite to sustainable development. UNEP will seek to integrate environmental management needs within the recovery plans and peacebuilding strategies of relevant United Nations actors, including UN Country Teams, the United Nations Development Group, and the Peacebuilding Commission.

³ Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2).

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UNEP is already cooperating with several Major Groups in this area of work, including through five key partnerships established in 2008 under the Environment, Conflict and Peacebuilding (ECP) programme. The ECP programme aims to prevent natural resources from contributing to conflict relapse, while at the same time using environmental co-operation as a platform for dialogue, confidence building, and reconciliation in post-conflict countries.

First, UNEP is providing technical expertise to the **UN Peacebuilding Commission Support Office** (PBSO). In this regard, UNEP seconded an environmental advisor to the PBSO in New York for a two-year period starting in March 2008. The advisor acts as the focal point for natural resources and environmental issues in PBSO, channeling the environmental experience and best practice of UNEP and other stakeholders into peacebuilding plans, policies, and processes.

Second, UNEP established an **Expert Advisory Group on Environment, Conflict, and Peacebuilding**. Coordinated by the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the advisory group provides independent expertise, develops tools and policy inputs, and identifies best practices in using natural resources and the environment in ways that contribute to peacebuilding. The group is composed of senior experts from academic institutions, NGOs, and think-tanks that have demonstrated leadership in environment and conflict issues. Members include experts from Duke University, Columbia University, the University of Maryland, the University of California at Irvine, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Adelphi Research, and Global Witness.

Third, as a complement to the Expert Advisory Group, UNEP has joined forces with IUCN, the Environmental Law Institute, and the Universities of Tokyo and McGill to collect, analyse, and publish 60 case studies on how natural resource management can contribute to peacebuilding in post-conflict countries. The project, entitled "**Strengthening post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding through natural resource management,**" comprises a focused research and awareness-raising programme that will culminate in the publication of an edited volume of case studies, cross-cutting analyses, and lessons learned for practitioners, scholars, and others working on post-conflict peacebuilding.

Fourth, UNEP has established a partnership with the **Earth Institute at Columbia University**, which covers research and co-operation on the environmental drivers and impacts of conflict and disasters. It includes an internship programme, lecture exchanges, as well as joint research and events. Within the framework of this co-operation, a new Masters-level course has been developed within the Earth Institute on environment, conflict, and peacebuilding.

Finally, UNEP is an associated partner in a proposed European research project involving 14 universities and private sector companies on monitoring environment and security linkages. The GEMOSEC research programme, managed by the University of Salzburg, aims to integrate

remote-sensing technology, natural science, and social science in understanding and monitoring environment and security linkages. The project will train next-generation researchers to carry out interdisciplinary research. It will also develop and apply methods to assess potential hotspots and advance early-warning mechanisms. UNEP's role is to share expertise, identify technical needs, peer review methods, provide training, and help focus research topics.

Ecosystem Management

On Ecosystem Management, the MTS identifies UNEP's overall objective as: *ensuring that countries utilise the ecosystem approach to enhance human well-being.*

Facilitating management and restoration of ecosystems in a sustainable manner for socio-economic development is a key area of work for UNEP. UNEP will continue to catalyse integrated approaches for assessment and management of freshwater, terrestrial, and coastal and marine systems, including through integrated water resources management, land degradation assessment in drylands, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, and the Regional Seas Programme.

In facilitating a more integrated approach, UNEP will draw upon its knowledge and on integrated environmental assessments for more effective management of natural systems at multiple scales and across sectors. UNEP will promote adaptive management, participatory decision-making, and sustainable financing through payments for ecosystem services to address the disjointed approach to natural system management that has led to the loss of biological diversity, fragmented habitats, and a decline in ecosystem services critical for human well-being.

UNEP will continue to promote the strong linkages between the state of ecosystems and human well-being, including the aspects of poverty and health. These interlinkages have been clearly demonstrated through the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*, a landmark assessment of the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being coordinated by UNEP and carried out by more than 1,300 authors from 95 countries. For further information, see <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx>.

In addition to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment process itself, UNEP has undertaken several other important initiatives related to ecosystem management in co-operation with Major Groups, including those described below.

The International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), established in 2000, is a global partnership of coral reef experts working to halt and reverse the decline of the health of the world's coral reefs. It is made up of some of the world's leading coral reef scientists and conservation groups. CSO partners include the World Resources Institute (WRI), WWF, and the Nature Conservancy.

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ICRAN works closely with UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and its regional offices, which enables the implementation of concrete activities and coordination of regional action. The successes of this programme are an excellent example of how regional bodies, in this case the Regional Seas Programme, can be used as an effective platform to implement projects and activities at the regional and even global level. For further information, see www.icran.org.

The Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) is an innovative and ambitious project of UNEP and UNESCO with an immediate challenge: to lift the threat of imminent extinction faced by gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, and orang-utans. The Executive Director of UNEP launched the GRASP in May 2001. It is an example of a successful civil society, UNEP, and private sector partnership coordinated by a UN agency. (See Box 3 for more on the ingredients of this success.) The keen interest of civil society in this partnership is reflected in GRASP's patrons—Dr. Russell Mittermeier, Dr. Jane Goodall, Prof. Toshisada Nishida, and Dr. Richard Leakey—all highly recognised by civil society, and by the high number of states and environmental NGOs involved in the partnership. GRASP also works with the private sector, including the timber and mining industry.

Box 3. GRASP: An Example of a Successful Partnership

- Ensuring coordinated efforts among all the partners, especially NGOs, to promote collaboration of these organisations. GRASP facilitates exchange of information, promotes efficient utilisation of funds, and helps foster co-operation.
- Enabling all the parties concerned to speak with a strong and unique voice to the wider public, raising the level of public awareness on the critical great apes situation (through videos, press conferences, exhibitions, publications, etc.).
- Enabling civil society organisations to engage with ministers and governments, in a productive multistakeholder dialogue, for example, through the GRASP Council, GRASP's guiding body that includes a seat for each member organisation.
- Linking the local reality to the global policy arena. GRASP financially supported rangers from national parks with great apes to attend the World Parks Congress in Durban and has provided resources for capacity building within range-state national parks.
- Enabling effective action at the local level. UNEP, through its work in GRASP, coordinates with major NGOs and directly involves grassroots NGOs and local communities.

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Speaking with a unified and coordinated voice for great ape conservation is GRASP's most immediate challenge. In the longer term, GRASP has significant potential to match its record of growth in respect to partnerships with and among CSOs. UNEP has sought to include more members of civil society in GRASP, especially those working directly with great apes and communities, and it has succeeded in bringing a wide variety of stakeholders to the table. For example, the GRASP coalition now includes 23 states with great ape populations as well as several dozen NGOs. For further information, see www.unep.org/grasp.

The UNDP-UNEP **Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)** is a joint project designed to make governments aware of the linkage between the environment and poverty and to advocate for the mainstreaming of environmental policies. The PEI is now active in nine countries and is expanding to increase its worldwide scope. Environmental factors such as pollution, water depletion, and deforestation have significant negative effects not only on natural ecosystems but also on human development. Policies that damage the environment contribute to human poverty and suffering, while well-designed programmes can simultaneously protect the environment and lead impoverished areas to stronger economic growth. The PEI advocates for government programmes promoting both environmental protection and poverty reduction by "mainstreaming" these policies into national planning processes, illustrating the link between poverty and the environment, and providing training, technical, and financial support necessary to implement these policies.

In several countries, the PEI has accomplished these goals through co-operation with civil society. In Rwanda, the PEI partnered with a number of local civil society organisations to develop that nation's District Development Plans. It also created training programmes to teach youth and women about the link between poverty and the environment, and has involved civil society in the policymaking process. In Mozambique, all of the pilot projects have been implemented with the active involvement of civil society organisations, and the PEI plans to continue this practice with future initiatives. In Uganda, CSOs have been involved with the implementation of micro-projects and with advocacy work at district levels. In Tanzania, the PEI worked through the Foundation for Civil Society, a non-profit national institution that serves as a liaison between the government and civil society. Through this co-operation the PEI and FCS raised awareness of laws and policies related to poverty and the environment, built training programmes, and coordinated with the country's national development strategy, MKUKUTA, which stands for the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty in Kiswahili. And in Mali and Mauritania, the PEI is currently developing micro-projects that will be implemented by local civil society organisations.

For further information, see <http://www.unpei.org/about/index.asp>. On Tanzania's initiative, see <http://www.povertymonitoring.go.tz/> and <http://www.thefoundation-tz.org/>.

Environmental Governance

On Environmental Governance, the MTS identifies UNEP's overall objective as: *ensuring that environmental governance at country, regional, and global levels is strengthened to address agreed environmental priorities.*

Environmental governance at the national, regional, and global levels is critical for the achievement of environmental sustainability. At the global level, UNEP will help to improve coherence and co-operation among environment-related mechanisms. This will include identifying interlinkages among Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to provide an opportunity for more effective implementation at all levels and to achieve the objectives for each cross-cutting thematic priority.

UNEP will, at all levels, support governments in establishing, implementing, and strengthening the necessary processes, institutions, laws, policies, and programmes to achieve sustainable development and will contribute to the evolution of norms and standards to secure the environmental basis for sustainable development. UNEP will continue to promote co-operation and action based on sound science.

UNEP will work with United Nations entities, international institutions, regional and national bodies, MEAs, governments, civil society, and the private sector to increase the mainstreaming of environment into other sectoral processes and policies, including at the country level. UNEP will also play an active role in the ongoing governance debate at the UN General Assembly and through its Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. UNEP will continue to support and contribute to the Environmental Management Group and the United Nations Development Group.

UNEP has already undertaken several important initiatives related to environmental governance in co-operation with Major Groups, including those described below.

In February 2001, the UNEP GC/GMEF adopted the third 10-year programme (2001–2010) for work in environmental law: "The Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law of the First Decade of the Twenty-first Century (Montevideo Programme III)." **The Montevideo Programme III** is made up of 20 components, which are organised under three themes of equal importance: i) effectiveness of environmental law; ii) conservation and management; and iii) relationship between environmental law and other fields of law and policy.

The Montevideo Programme III focuses firstly on achieving an effective implementation of, compliance with, and enforcement of environmental law, rather than creating new international legal tools (component 1). The second major objective (component 2) of the programme consists of

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increasing the capacity of national institutions in developing countries to develop and implement environmental legal instruments. Public participation and access to information are also major objectives of the Montevideo Programme III (component 7).

UNEP is currently implementing Montevideo Programme III. A mid-term review of its implementation was undertaken in 2004, and the results were submitted to the Governing Council at its 23rd session in 2005. UNEP has already started working on the development of the fourth Montevideo Programme, in co-operation with relevant experts. For further information, see http://www.unep.org/law/About_prog/montevideo_prog.asp.

Public participation is necessary to implement environmental laws. If a government, in its task to regulate and help its citizens to live in harmony, adopts a law, then the public needs to be aware of it and to share responsibility in daily implementation. In this regard, tangible implementation of Principle 10 of the Earth Summit's Rio Declaration on Environment and Development is crucial, which states that environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level, and calls for i) access to information, ii) increased public participation, and iii) effective access to justice.

Along with IUCN, UNDP, the World Bank, governments, WRI, and other partners, UNEP is a founding member of the **"Partnership for Principle 10" (PP10)**.

Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration states the following:

"Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided."

Under PP10, UNEP has committed to increasing its performance in providing adequate information to the interested public. This initiative—unveiled at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg—identifies the three principles articulated in Principle 10 as keys for public participation in environmental governance. PP10 is committed to translating the principles into action by promoting transparent, inclusive, and accountable decision-making at the national level. It provides a venue for governments, international organisations, and civil society groups to work together to implement practical solutions that provide the public with access to information, participation, and justice for environmentally sustainable decisions. This partnership is open to new members, and CSOs can participate directly in the partnership. For further information, see www.pp10.org.

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Involvement of civil society is critical for effective implementation, compliance, and enforcement of environmental law. CSOs play an instrumental role in bringing cases involving environmental issues to national courts. In so doing, they enable judges and force governments to take action. Judges often do not have all the necessary skills to handle cases pertaining to environmental issues. UNEP can work with litigation groups or environmental NGOs specialised in environmental law to train judges in handling such cases. Following the WSSD, UNEP has also been working directly with judges to enhance their ability to handle environmental cases, and with parliamentarians, by raising capacity to implement international environmental agreements within their own legal frameworks.

UNEP has developed guidelines and drafted a manual to help governments and civil society achieve effective compliance with and enforcement of environmental laws. These instruments provide practical guidance and specific examples in implementing MEAs. For further information, see http://www.unep.org/DEPI/programmes/law_implementation.html.

UNEP has capitalised on its experience in law and made it available to practitioners. For example, the database ECOLEX—jointly run by UNEP, FAO, and IUCN—provides up-to-date and comprehensive information on environmental law. For further information, see www.ecolex.org.

Harmful Substances and Hazardous Wastes

On Harmful Substances and Hazardous Wastes, the MTS identifies UNEP's overall objective as: *to minimise the impact of harmful substances and hazardous waste on the environment and human beings.*

As part of wider United Nations efforts to lessen the environmental and health impacts of harmful substances and hazardous waste, UNEP will continue to lead and participate in a number of partnerships to address such issues, including the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles. UNEP will focus its efforts on: enhancing strategic alliances; servicing of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the implementation of its environmental component; supporting the development and evolution of internationally agreed chemical management regimes; and assisting countries in increasing their capacities for sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste, including the collection of relevant data and information, for the benefit of environment and human health. UNEP will also support initiatives related to specific chemicals, such as mercury, heavy metals, chemicals covered by MEAs (such as ozone depleting substances), and other chemicals of global concern; and will address emerging issues.

As detailed below, UNEP has already undertaken several important initiatives related to harmful substances and hazardous wastes in co-operation with Major Groups.

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The Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles aims to combat urban air pollution in developing countries by improving fuel and vehicle standards. It has focused on phasing out leaded petrol around the world, reducing the level of sulphur in fuel, and promoting technologies such as catalytic converters that reduce the emission of dangerous pollutants from vehicles into the environment.

One of the Partnership's greatest successes has been in moving the world from lead-based to unleaded fuels. In 2002, when the Partnership was formed, nearly all of Africa and the Middle East, as well as large portions of Asia, Eastern Europe, and South America, used only leaded petrol or both leaded and unleaded petrol. As of 2008, North Korea is the only country in the world to rely solely on leaded fuel, and only 14 countries have not banned it entirely.

In pursuing its goal of reducing urban air pollution, the Partnership has worked in concert with a variety of partners ranging from government environmental agencies, to international institutions to petroleum and vehicle businesses, to environmental NGOs. In total, it has over 110 partner organisations around the globe. For further information, see <http://www.unep.org/pcfvi/index.asp>.

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is an international policy framework designed to ensure that chemicals are manufactured, managed, and used in a manner that minimises negative impacts on human health and the environment. The development of SAICM was mandated by UNEP and endorsed by the WSSD in 2002 and the New York World Summit in September 2005. Since its adoption, SAICM has been formally recognised by the governing bodies of FAO, ILO, OECD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, and WHO, underlining its multi-sectoral credentials.

SAICM has taken notable steps to partner not only with governments and international organisations, but also with NGOs around the world. NGOs are active participants in nearly all SAICM meetings where, in practice, they have been treated on an equal basis to governments and IGOs, though the formal status of all participants remains to be confirmed through the negotiation of rules of procedure for the SAICM governing body, the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM), at its second session in May 2009. Civil society groups can apply for project funding through the Quick Start Programme.

One particular area where the SAICM process is delivering support for civil society is the **Global NGO Outreach Campaign**, launched in late 2007. With support from donor governments, including through the SAICM secretariat, several international NGO networks are partners in this campaign: Health Care Without Harm (HCWH), the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN), International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE), Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF), Pesticide Action Network (PAN), and the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA). Each of these organisations serves as a focal point or representative for a larger group of

NGOs, so a much greater number of organisations participates directly or indirectly in the Global Outreach Campaign.

The Global Outreach Campaign's overall goals are:

- 1) To expand civil society awareness in all regions that toxic chemical exposure represents a real and growing threat to public health and the environment;
- 2) To secure commitments from NGOs and other civil society organisations stating their intention to participate in national and local efforts that contribute to the SAICM implementation with the goal of advancing towards the achievement of the WSSD/SAICM 2020 goal.
- 3) To create an NGO/CSO database of organisations in all regions that have stated that they intend to contribute to SAICM implementation.

Industrial stakeholders have also had a chance to participate in the development of SAICM. The International Council of Chemical Associations, a coalition of chemical manufacturers and producers around the world, participated in the 2006 ICCM in which SAICM was adopted, and has backed its approval.

During the initial implementation phase, the SAICM secretariat has organised regional and international meetings in order to help nations and civil society develop humane and safe chemical policies and has worked with stakeholders of all kinds to implement and develop policies and programmes through mechanisms such as the Quick Start Programme.

For further information, see <http://www.chem.unep.ch/saicm/>, <http://www.icca-chem.org/index.html>, and <http://www.ipen.org/ipenweb/saicm.html>.

Addressing the dangers associated with the release of mercury into the environment, UNEP sponsored the **Global Mercury Partnership** meeting in April 2008. Out of this meeting emerged the creation of a new Global Mercury Partnership framework designed to bring in governments, international organisations, the private sector, and NGOs to combat mercury pollution. The new framework clearly lays out the goals of the organisation while providing an outline for management, organisational outlines, and business plans for members. The overall goal of the programme, as stated in the framework, is "to protect human health and the global environment from the release of mercury and its compounds by minimizing and, where feasible, ultimately eliminating global, anthropogenic mercury releases to air, water and land." One important feature of the new framework is the Partnership Advisory Group, a body of representatives from governments, businesses, and Major Groups created to coordinate and lead co-operation between these stakeholders and the UNEP programme.

For further information, see <http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/default.htm> and http://www.ciel.org/Chemicals/UNEP_Mercury_Apr08.html.

Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production

On Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production, the MTS identifies UNEP's overall objective as: ensuring that natural resources are produced, processed, and consumed in a more environmentally sustainable way.

UNEP will promote the decoupling of growth in production and consumption of goods and services from resource depletion and environmental degradation, and will strengthen the scientific base for doing so. UNEP will also encourage the application of environmentally sound technologies and integrated waste management, leading to the more efficient use of resources, and it will promote needed reforms in government policies, changes in private sector management practices and decisions, and increased consumer awareness to address inefficient and polluting production and consumption patterns. Public-private partnerships that promote more sustainable product lifecycles and supply chains will also be a major focus of UNEP's work in this area.

UNEP has already undertaken several important initiatives related to Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production in co-operation with Major Groups, including those detailed below.

The **Marrakech Process** is a global multistakeholder process to promote Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) and to work towards a "Global Framework for Action on SCP," the so-called *10-Year Framework of Programmes* on SCP. UNEP and the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) are the leading agencies of this global process, with increasingly active participation by national governments, development agencies, business and industry representatives, civil society, and other stakeholders. Two examples of Major Group involvement are the Business and Industry Forum and the NGO Forum, each of which provides a medium for collaboration and a place where these groups can engage directly with the Marrakech Process. For further information, see <http://www.unep.fr/scp/marrakech/>.

In a related initiative, UNEP is implementing a project on **SCP in Developing Countries**, which has the overall objective of contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals through increased utilisation of opportunities of SCP for poverty alleviation in developing countries. In addition to national policymakers, the project also targets local authorities, business and industry, and NGOs, as well as the scientific and technological community. For example, the project is engaging with local governments of Peru to help them to integrate a lifecycle perspective into their waste management policies. It has also provided a cost-benefit analysis over the lifecycle of a private enterprise in Mali that uses solar technology for the drying of fruits and meats. The project has developed a toolbox to help analyse and make the "business case" for sustainable ventures. For further information, see <http://www.unep.fr/scp/poverty/>.

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The UNEP-led **International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management** (Resource Panel) aims to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation by providing independent scientific analysis. Launched in November 2007, the panel is expected to provide authoritative scientific assessments on the sustainable use of resources over a product's lifecycle, which includes impacts on the availability of supplies and environmental impacts of selected products and services on a global level. The aim is to contribute to raising awareness about the issues at stake and to strengthen the knowledge of ways to break the current link between economic growth and environmental degradation. The panel's membership includes leaders in the fields of environment and resource management from around the world. Its steering committee, which advises on annual programmes and budgets, includes representatives from 13 national governments and the European Commission, as well as from the International Council for Science, IUCN, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). For further information, see <http://www.unep.fr/scp/rpanel/>.

An important tool for bringing about more sustainable lifestyles is product information and labeling schemes. UNEP is involved in several innovative **eco-labelling initiatives**, in co-operation with diverse stakeholders. For example, it is providing capacity building and technical assistance related to ecolabelling for industries and governments in developing countries, particularly in Brazil, China, India, Kenya and the South East African Region, Mexico, and South Africa. UNEP has joined forces in this initiative with the German capacity-building organisation InWent and with other partners. For further information, see <http://www.unep.fr/scp/ecolabelling/>.

Ecolabelling and harmonization of standards is also a key topic in new work by UNEP on sustainable value-chains management, which is examining ways of advancing partnering and capacity building through global supply chains in the agrifood industries. For further information, see <http://www.unep.fr/scp/unchaining/>.

UNEP has also supported the development of the **East African Organic Products Standard (EAOPS)**, under the auspices of the joint UNEP-United Nations Conference on Trade And Development Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development. The standard has been adopted by the East African Council of Ministers as the official East African Community Voluntary standard. The EAOPS is the second regional organic standard in the world after the European, and the first ever to have been developed in co-operation between the public, private, and NGO sectors.

Through the joint development of a new set of globally relevant, **baseline criteria for sustainable tourism** operations, UNEP is assisting the travel and tourism industry to make tourism more sustainable worldwide. The criteria, available in a unique and accessible database, have been developed jointly with the United Nations Foundation (UNF), the Rainforest Alliance, IUCN, the

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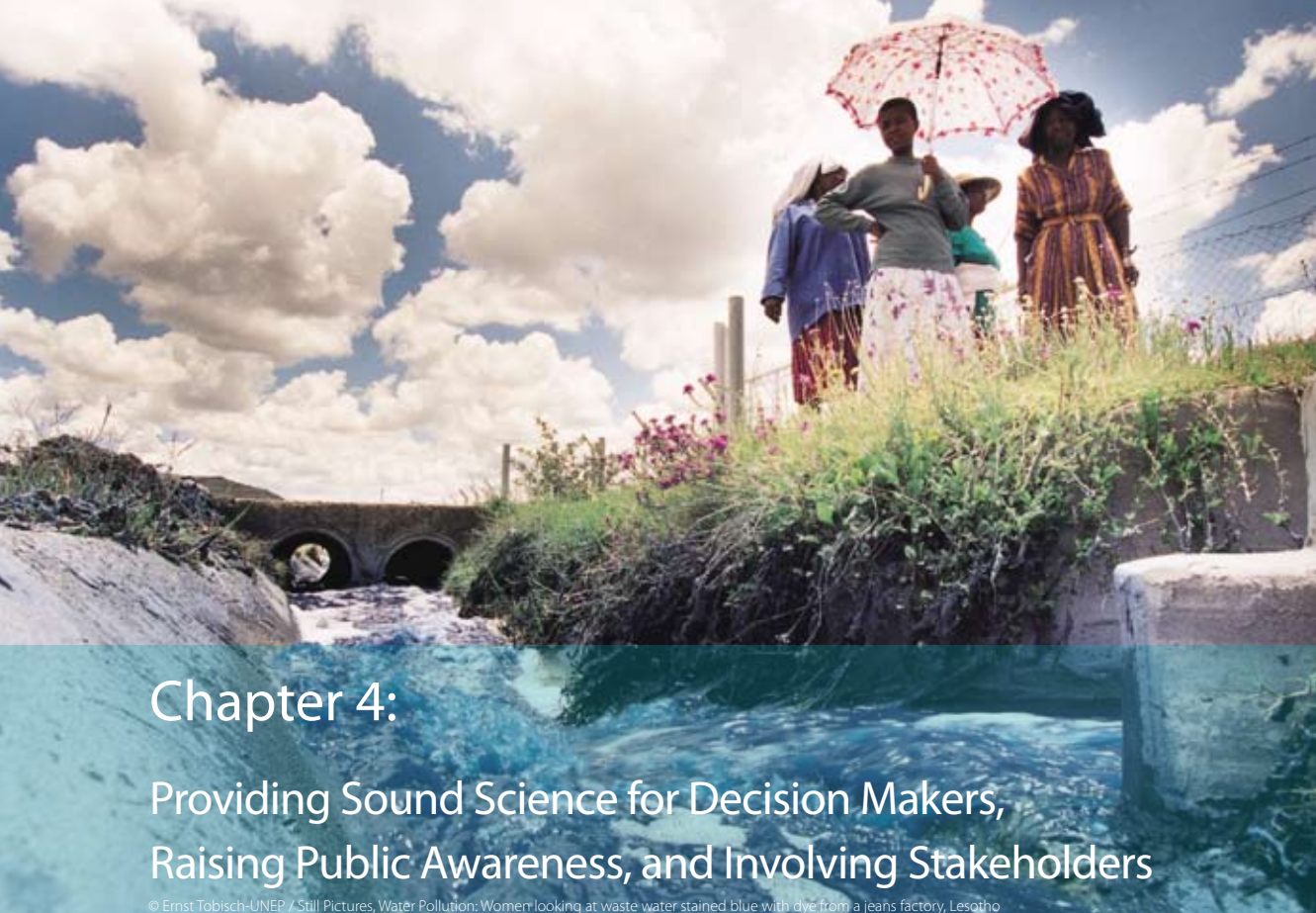
UN World Tourism Organisation, the CBD Secretariat, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, and numerous other partners from the travel and tourism community. For further information, see <http://www.sustainabletourismcriteria.org/>.

In the area of **trade, finance, and economics**, UNEP seeks to improve countries' understanding of the inter-linkages and complementarities among trade, finance, economics, environment, and development. UNEP works closely with the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), other relevant intergovernmental organisations, and many NGOs. The Economics and Trade Branch (ETB) of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) has entered into agreements with several institutions, including national training and research institutes, regional organisations, and universities, and has established a network of collaborating institutions. They participate in ETB's capacity-building activities through involvement in country projects, research and training activities, and regional workshops. For further information, see <http://www.unep.ch/etb/index.php>.

UNEP's Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is a global partnership between UNEP and the financial sector. Over 160 institutions, including banks, insurers, and fund managers, work with UNEP to understand the impacts of environmental and social considerations on financial performance. For further information, see <http://www.unepfi.org/>.

In the field of **ozone layer protection**, UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) fulfills UNEP's mandate as one of the Implementing Agencies of the Montreal Protocol, through its OzonAction Programme. Since the 1990s, OzonAction has taken a leading role raising awareness among civil society on ozone layer issues. For example, it developed an information clearinghouse on its website to disseminate key information on ozone layer protection, and it encourages South-South dialogue so that best-practice initiatives in developing countries are shared and publicised throughout the regions. For further information, see <http://www.unep.tie.org/ozonAction/>.

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Chapter 4:

Providing Sound Science for Decision Makers, Raising Public Awareness, and Involving Stakeholders

© Ernst Tobisch-UNEP / Still Pictures, Water Pollution: Women looking at waste water stained blue with dye from a jeans factory, Lesotho

Providing Sound Science for Decisionmakers

A principal mandate of UNEP is to monitor the world environmental situation to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by governments.

UNEP's Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA) is charged with this task in collaboration with a number of scientific centres that provide databases of information. For example, DEWA works with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), a centre specialised in biodiversity, and with the Global Resource Information Database (GRID) Centres. Each GRID Centre provides regional data information and has developed sectoral expertise in environmental issues.

UNEP's role in assessments consists of catalysing the efforts of the scientific community around environmental topics. UNEP operates in the following manner:

- Identification of institutes or associations that have the required scientific expertise;
- Development of networks between these organisations named "collaborating centres" and UNEP to facilitate similar standards and reporting procedures;
- Establishment of a contract between UNEP and the CSO that stipulates how UNEP will assist the

CHAPTER 4: PROVIDING SOUND SCIENCE FOR DECISION MAKERS, RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, AND INVOLVING STAKEHOLDERS

organisation technically and financially to undertake the assessment or reporting activities;

- Development of the scientific assessment/products by the collaborating centre with UNEP support.

UNEP undertakes global and regional environmental assessments, such as the *Global Environment Outlook* (GEO) report and regional environmental assessments based on the same model. For further information, see <http://www.unep.org/geo/>.

UNEP also coordinates the following sectoral assessments:

- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/en/index.aspx>
- Global International Water Assessment (GIWA): http://maps.grida.no/go/graphic/global_international_water_assessment_tools_giwa
- Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change: www.aiaccproject.org
- Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment (SWERA): <http://swera.unep.net/>
- Regionally Based Assessment of Persistent Toxic Substances: www.chem.unep.ch/pops
- Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA): lada.virtualcentre.org

Capacity building of scientific institutions in developing countries and countries with economies in transition is at the core of the scientific assessment process. Reports such as the *Global Environment Outlook* and the *African Environment Outlook* were developed with assistance aimed at raising the capacity of participating institutions.

It is critical to underline the central place that CSOs play in all of these assessments. For example, the *Global Environment Outlook* is based on a network of 37 collaborating centres, 31 of which are universities, research institutes, or NGOs. These include: l'Association pour le Développement de l'Information Environnementale (ADIE), the Earth Council, Network for Environment and Sustainable Development in Africa, the Regional and International Networking Group (RING), the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

UNEP assessments result in scientific publications targeted at policymakers, especially government representatives. They can be purchased from www.earthprint.com, the official portal for environmental publications from UNEP. Summaries and syntheses of most of these assessments, up-to-date maps, graphics, and databases on environmental issues are available on the main UNEP website, following the link for "Resources for Scientists and Academics."

In one particularly successful case, the UNEP publication *One Planet, Many People; Atlas of Our Changing Environment* was released at the World Environment Day ceremonies in June 2005 and has been updated regularly since with satellite images of environmental hotspots around the world. Subsequently, UNEP made the Atlas photos and text available on the Internet at www.na.unep.net. The Atlas helps people identify, understand, and act on global environmental

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issues. Because of the slow development of such issues as water shortages, forest loss, ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss, invasive species, and climate change, it is often very difficult for policymakers and the public to visualise and appreciate both positive and negative changes to the environment and natural resource base.

The *Atlas* has received extensive worldwide coverage and has won many distinguished publication awards, indicating that visual images are able to successfully convey critical global environmental information. A follow-on regional report, the *Africa Atlas of Our Changing Environment*, was released in June 2008 at the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN). Thanks to UNEP's pioneering partnership with Google Earth, this valuable library is now available to a global audience of over 300 million people. (See Box 4.)

Box 4. UNEP's Partnership with Google Earth

The Google Earth website launched in September 2006 on the company's 3D virtual world browser and enables users to zoom in on any location of a satellite-based, color, 3D depiction of the planet. By overlaying photos from UNEP's Atlas of Our Changing Environment, it enables a vast number of users to view the images, illustrating some of the world's most extremely challenged areas over a 30-year time span. It also helps viewers to see and appreciate the environmental and natural resource changes in a way that makes them comprehensible and meaningful, thus allowing policymakers and the public to decide on taking constructive action on the causative factors.

Google Earth released the UNEP Atlas on September 13, 2006 as part of its "Featured Content," and it has already become one of the most popular Google Earth features. On April 10, 2007 Google Earth released new UNEP materials for 120 environmental hotspots, creating a new layer called "Global Awareness" to help draw world attention to environmental issues. The UNEP team won the UN 21 Award in 2005 for its productivity and won the International Digital Earth 3D Visualization Grand Challenge; the project was also recognised at the Fifth International Symposium on Digital Earth on June 5–9, 2007 in San Francisco. An updated version of the Atlas, with about 200 environmental hotspot sites, was launched on Google Earth in September 2008.

In 2007, the Google Earth Outreach team, in co-operation with UNEP, initiated a project to inspire people around the world to participate in International Cleanup Day on October 13–14, 2007 and created a web site and tutorial to show people how to use Google's MyMaps product to organise cleanups in their neighborhoods. The core concept was to demonstrate that technology (in this case, Google Maps) could enable distributed action on a large scale. Instead of central organisation, the aim was to encourage and enable many people around the world to plan their own cleanups close to home using maps that they make.

Raising Public Awareness

UNEP seeks to serve as the world community's collective environmental conscience, keeping us focused on forward progress as well as on remaining challenges in preserving the global environment.

Activities and programmes carried out by UNEP generate a wealth of information. UNEP communicates this information to the wider public, develops specific materials for mass media, undertakes actions to raise global public awareness, and sensitises specific groups, such as children and youth. The Division of Communications and Public Information (DCPI) carries out most these activities, in co-operation with other UNEP divisions.

Ensuring public access to UNEP's information

The first task of DCPI is to provide access for the public at large to all of the information generated by UNEP. Most of this information is directly available on the Internet at www.unep.org, where searches can be conducted using keywords. In some cases, this information can be supplied on request. Publications can be accessed at www.unep.org/publications and purchased from UNEP's online bookstore at www.earthprint.com.

Developing materials for the mass media and the general public

In a world where people are overwhelmed by information, environmental concerns often fall behind economic and social considerations. It is therefore extremely important to provide reference information to the media to mobilise public opinion.

Through its news centre, UNEP disseminates a significant amount of environmental news to the media. Resources for journalists and other interested civil society parties include up-to-date press releases, detailed information on meetings and other gatherings, public service announcements, speeches, and contacts. Press releases are available online at www.unep.org/MediaRoom/pressrelease and through existing networks such as the BBC. UNEP communicates directly with the media through its roster. To receive UNEP press releases, send a request directly to dcpiinfo@unep.org.

UNEP regularly releases a wide range of environmentally themed outreach products. These include pictures, maps and graphics, films, and video and audio resources. Photography competitions are organised regularly in partnership with the private sector, including companies such as Canon.

Audio-visual resources include the popular and widely watched "Earth Report," produced in partnership with the Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) and the Earth Report Commission.

Civil society organisations interested in proposing stories or obtaining copies of past programmes can contact TVE at www.tve.org.

UNEP publishes a quarterly magazine, *Our Planet*, which provides environmental information on the current environmental situation. Eminent persons and CEOs contribute regularly to *Our Planet*. The publication is available online at www.ourplanet.com.

Outreach programmes to raise public awareness

Putting climate neutrality on the map

In February 2008, UNEP launched the Climate Neutral Network (CN Net). This web-based initiative seeks to catalyse an international response to global warming and serves as a tool for communication, networking, and awareness-raising on climate change. The CN Net provides participants, including countries, regions, cities, local municipalities, companies, and organisations, with a platform to present their climate-neutral strategies to the global audience and share their practical experiences. While the number of web-based initiatives on climate neutrality is steadily increasing, the CN Net allows its participants to be in the vanguard of a global movement, to inspire others to follow their example, and to enhance their exposure and credibility. Candidates wanting to join the Network can fill out an online form at www.unep.org/climateneutral or write to the CN Net team at cn.net@unep.org.

Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign

The Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign is a unique worldwide tree-planting initiative spearheaded by UNEP and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF). It was unveiled in 2006 as one of the responses to the threat of global warming as well as to the wider sustainability challenges, from water supplies to biodiversity loss.

The Campaign is aimed at empowering individuals, communities, business and industry, NGOs, CSOs, and governments to take simple, positive steps to protect our climate. To participate in the Campaign, participants enter tree-planting pledges online at www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign. Once the trees have been planted, participants are required to revisit the website and register the number of planted trees.

The Billion Tree Campaign has become a practical expression of private and public concern over global warming. To date, the initiative, which is under the patronage of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Kenyan Green Belt Movement founder Professor Wangari Maathai and His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, has broken every target that has been set for it. In just 18 months, the Campaign catalysed the planting of 2 billion trees in more than 160 countries, double its original target of 1 billion trees.

Due to this record success, UNEP decided in May 2008 to raise its sights even higher—to catalyse the planting of 7 billion trees worldwide by the crucial climate convention meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, in late 2009. Regional and national governments have organised the most massive plantings, with Ethiopia leading the count at 700 million, followed by Turkey (400 million), Mexico (250 million), and Cuba (136 million).

To boost public awareness on the environment, two dates are marked annually worldwide: World Environment Day on June 5, and Clean Up The World Campaign in September.

World Environment Day celebrates the establishment of UNEP in 1972, and is a political celebration meant to focus on the importance of the environment. Clean Up the World Campaign is a worldwide campaign that takes place in September of each year. All interested associations can participate on the ground to help clean up the environment. It is a unique occasion where citizens can actively manifest their commitment towards better environmental management. For further information, see <http://www.unep.org/wed/2008/english/> and <http://www.cleanuptheworld.org/en/Partnership/unep-and-cuw.html>.

In addition, UNEP has developed two environmental awards—the UNEP Sasakawa Environment Prize and the “Champions of the Earth Award”—to recognise and promote the contributions of individuals, communities, and institutions around the world. Most recipients of these awards have come from civil society.

The **UNEP Sasakawa Environment Prize** is probably the most prestigious worldwide environmental award. Presented each year to an individual, the award is worth US\$200,000, making it one of the world’s most valuable environmental prizes. Since its inception, interest in the award has increased significantly, as attested by the growing number of nominations. CSOs and individuals are welcome to nominate an individual for the prize. For further information, see www.unep.org/sasakawa.

Champions of the Earth, the successor to the “Global 500,” is awarded each year to seven outstanding environmental achievers and leaders of the world (six from different regions as well as a special prize) who made a significant and recognised contribution, regionally or beyond, to the protection and sustainable management of the Earth’s environment and natural resources. For further information, see www.unep.org/champions.

UNEP also plays a part in other awards that recognise the contribution of an individual or institution in a particular field or region:

- Royal Award for Responsible Investment: www.royalaward.org
- Global Business Award: www.uneptie.org/outreach/business/awards.htm

- European Better Environment Award: www.eu-environment-awards.org
- Ozone Awards: www.unep.org/ozone/
- Volvo Environment Prize: www.environment-prize.com
- Zayed International Prize for the Environment: www.zayedprize.org

All of these awards are subject to nominations, and more information on them can be accessed through the main UNEP website, www.unep.org, under “Events and Awards.”

Linking Sports and the Environment

The 22nd Governing Council of UNEP in February 2003 adopted a **Sport and Environment Strategy** that aims to promote the integration of environmental consideration in sports, use the popularity of sports to promote environmental awareness, and promote the development of environmentally friendly sports facilities and the manufacture of environmentally friendly sporting goods.

To achieve these objectives, UNEP has entered into agreements with a wide range of partners such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup organisers, the International Association of Athletics Federation, Commonwealth Games, and the Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme to ensure that the environment is mainstreamed into the preparations and hosting of these games.

UNEP supports the IOC in organising the biennial World Conference of Sport and the Environment and hosts the Global Forum for Sport and the Environment with its partner, the Global Sports Alliance of Japan. Since 2001, UNEP has been collaborating with the Sadili Oval Club in Kenya on the implementation of a leadership training programme for underprivileged children, the Nature and Sport Camp. Owing to its success, UNEP is considering the replication of this model in other countries.

UNEP’s role as a leader in environmental assessments for sports events is gaining the confidence of the world, especially after the recent environmental assessments of the Beijing Games and the Sochi 2014 Winter Games. For further information, see http://www.unep.org/sport_env/.

Working with Specific Major Groups

Involving Children and Youth

Children (defined by UNEP as those 14 years and under) and Youth (defined by UNEP as those between 15 and 24 years old) have a critical role to play in shaping the environment. They can have great deal of influence on their peers and elders in term of promoting new ideas that are urgently needed to build and sustain environmental action. It is in this context that UNEP has worked with young people since 1985, the International Youth Year.

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In February 2003, to further promote UNEP work with young people, the GC/GMEF endorsed a “long-term strategy (2003–2008) on engagement and involvement of young people in environmental issues” (the Tunza strategy), which provides the framework to involve young people worldwide in environmental issues and debate.

UNEP has set up a Youth Advisory Council (or Tunza Advisory Council), which is composed of 14 youth leaders, two per region and two representing indigenous youth organisations. The Council advises UNEP on its programmes and activities with youth. Council members are elected at the Tunza International Youth Conference for a mandate of two years. This global conference takes place every other year. The organization also periodically convenes Global Youth Retreats, the most recent of which took place in Nairobi in July 2008. UNEP, in collaboration with Bayer, also organises Eco-Innovate, the Tunza Regional Youth Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

A Tunza International Children’s Conference on the Environment for children between 10 and 14 years old is also held every other year, to provide children with an opportunity to learn about and voice their concerns on the environment. This conference provide a unique opportunity for children and youth to share views and commit themselves to environmental protection. Nomination forms for these conferences are distributed worldwide and are available on the UNEP website. Certain criteria need to be met, including proof of membership in an environment-related youth organisation or school and falling within the age requirements for each conference.

UNEP has developed several publications for young people. The quarterly magazine, *Tunza*, a publication for and by youth, was launched in June 2003. The magazine carries information on selected best practices by youth organisations and is published in English, French, and Spanish. A youth guidebook on the environment, *Tunza: Acting for a Better World*, was also published in August 2003. UNEP also produced *Pachamama: Our Earth—Our Future* and *GEO for Youth*, two publications that engage young people across the world. In Latin America, UNEP has set up a programme to train young journalists on environmental issues.

UNEP and UNESCO have also developed a website, www.youthxchange.net, and produced a training kit on responsible consumption entitled YouthXChange. YouthXchange was developed for young people, especially in the developed world where consumption patterns are increasing. For further information, see <http://www.youthxchange.net/main/home.asp>.

With children, the emphasis is on awareness and education. UNEP launched the “Plant for the Planet project,” a global campaign on children and tree planting. UNEP produced *Water World – Children’s Voices*, a unique educational booklet on water, for children, by children. It also publishes a series of illustrated books for children on environmental themes. An annual international children’s painting competition on the environment is organised by UNEP, the Japan-based Foundation for Global Peace and Environment, Bayer and Nikon. In addition, UNEP and Volvo launched a recognition

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programme for children and the environment, the Volvo-UNEP Adventure programme, which recognises outstanding environmental achievements by schools around the world.

Children and youth are welcome to participate or contribute to these programmes, publications, campaigns, and conferences. For further information, they can contact UNEP at children.youth@unep.org.

To implement the long-term strategy on engagement and involvement of young people, UNEP has limited resources. Donors, including civil society and the private sector, are important supporters:

- Since 2003, Bayer has contributed 1 million Euro annually towards youth capacity-building activities at the global and regional levels, especially in developing countries.
- Volvo and UNEP are collaborating on an environmental awards programme for schoolchildren under age 15 from around the world.

For further information, see <http://www.unep.org/Tunza/>.

Promoting Environmental Education and Training

In the context of the United Nations Literacy Decade – Education for All (2003–2012) and the ongoing United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014), UNEP has strengthened its work in environmental education, providing a wide range of programmes and materials. These materials benefit from expertise and activities in the scientific, policy, and law fields. They are tailored towards youth and children, the academic community, and policymakers. The materials are disseminated through seminars, meetings of experts, workshops, conferences, and the Internet.

For example, the Environmental Action Learning (EAL) programme addresses the needs of youth and children in primary and secondary schools as well as first and middle level colleges. At the university level, UNEP supports the development of courses on environmental management for students that incorporate elements of environmental protection into their workplace upon graduation. UNEP is also promoting continuous building of skills and knowledge through programmes such as the UNEP-Watson International Scholar of the Environment programme, based at Brown University, and the UNEP/UNESCO/BMU Dresden post-graduate programme for developing countries. UNEP supports the Global Virtual University, an online university for sustainable development, with a particular objective to meet educational needs of developing countries. For further information, see <http://www.unep.org/Training/>.

Mainstreaming Gender and Enhancing Women's Participation

Women represent more than half the world's population. They stand at the front line in terms of poverty, yet they provide invaluable contributions to sustaining communities around the world and managing the Earth's biodiversity and natural resources. Despite their role and know-how, the contribution of women is regularly undervalued and ignored. Furthermore, due to their productive and reproductive roles, women are uniquely vulnerable to environmental degradation. For example, it is well established that environmental hazards are among the major causes of global death and disease, and that the burden falls disproportionately on women and young children, especially in less-developed countries.

Since 1985, UNEP has been working to highlight the important role that women play in sustainable development. Building on the existing UNEP Governing Council decisions, and inspired by the outcomes of the **WAVE Assembly - Women as the Voice for the Environment** held in Nairobi in October 2004, UNEP's Governing Council, at its 23rd session in 2005, adopted Decision 23/11 on **Gender Equality in the Field of Environment**. This decision calls upon the Executive Director of UNEP to ensure that gender is fully mainstreamed into UNEP's programme of work and that it undertake special measures to ensure that women are participants in key decision-making bodies, as well as to liaise with the Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women to ensure that women's concerns in environmental management are well addressed.

The implementation of Governing Council Decision 23/11 has been through the UNEP Gender Plan of Action of 2006, which calls for high-level and sustained commitment to internal capacity-building on gender mainstreaming, utilizing various strategies including organisational workshops and training, changes in policy and practice, and accountability for implementation, as well as resource mobilization and human resources management. From September 2007, a multi-pronged approach has been adopted to facilitate the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action. This has included setting up an operational structure composed of over 70 staff from the divisions and regional offices, forming a gender team for UNEP. An additional priority has been the ongoing capacity building of staff on gender mainstreaming, which will continue into 2009 in preparation for the next programme of work. In addition, an online database *Who's Who: Women in Environment* was launched on International Women's Day 2006 that gives visibility to women leaders in the environmental field.

UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy recognises gender as an integral institutional mechanism for the achievement of the MTS and its attendant Programme of Work. Gender equality is now a key priority in all UNEP activities, and the organisation is systematically integrating gender perspectives into its programme design and implementation, along with measurable goals and indicators. For further information, see http://www.unep.org/gender_env/About/index.asp.

Engaging Business and Industry

In delivering a work programme on UNEP's six thematic priorities, the engagement of business and industry is critical in the effort to advance complementarity between public regulation and private-sector voluntary action. The activities of business and industry depend on the natural resource base and have a major impact on the environment. It is therefore essential to engage the private sector in action that could advance its contribution to improved efficiency in resource use whilst displaying environmental care and social responsibility. UNEP engages business and industry through project-based work, initiatives with groups of companies that form target industry sectors, collaboration with business and industry associations, as well as multistakeholder events in which public-private dialogue is facilitated.

In working with the private sector, UNEP seeks to assist industries to improve their environmental performance and join partnerships in technology support and capacity building. The Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) leads in this terrain. The mission of DTIE is to encourage decision-makers in government, local authorities, and industry to develop and adopt policies, strategies, and practices that are cleaner and safer; make efficient use of natural resources; ensure environmentally sound management of chemicals; reduce pollution and risks for humans and the environment; enable implementation of conventions and international agreements; and incorporate environmental costs.

Multistakeholder dialogue and engagement of business and industry associations

Since 1984, UNEP has received industry associations in an annual consultative meeting. Today, this takes the form of the **UNEP Business & Industry Global Dialogue**, a multistakeholder event attended by international industry associations, business organisations, and companies from all regions as well as public officials, consumer groups, international NGOs, and labour federations. The event is held in Paris every second year and in the regions during the years in between. These events serve to address topical issues on the world business and environment agenda, and to seek opportunities for co-operation in meeting stakeholder needs and implementing the UNEP work programme. It includes multistakeholder discussions in small groups where business representatives interact with NGOs and others. For further information, see www.unep.fr/scp/business/dialogue/.

The 2008 Business & Industry Global Dialogue was co-hosted with the International Chamber of Commerce and addressed sectoral approaches to climate change mitigation. The annual event is also used to mobilise industry associations in international processes in preparation for global environmental events such as the WSSD in 2002, Johannesburg +10 follow-up events, and the Marrakech Process. These processes are linked with thematic discussions under the UN CSD, as was done on the topic of Industrial Development when UNEP facilitated the development of industry-sector Report Cards during 2006–2007. For further information, see www.unep.fr/scp/csd/csd/.

UNEP also collaborates with the UN Global Compact, Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), and others to host the annual **Business for the Environment (B4E) Summit**, as well as thematic Global Compact Policy Dialogues on corporate environmental responsibility issues. The 2008 B4E Summit, "Business and Markets in a Climate of Change," addressed business action, investment, and accountability to address climate change. Following the success of the first B4E Summits in Singapore, with close to 1,000 mainly business delegates attending, future sessions of this global high-level event will mainly take place in other Asian countries. The 2009 summit will be held in Paris. Called "The Climate Imperative," it will address resource efficiency and climate change. For further information, see www.b4esummit.com/.

Working with groups of companies in voluntary initiatives and partnerships

Since the 1990s, UNEP has been involved in the creation of numerous international voluntary initiatives with groups of companies on an industry sector basis. Sectors involved included finance, telecommunications, tourism, advertising and communications, automotive manufacturing, mining, oil and gas, and building and construction. In recent years, the focus has been on a more limited number of initiatives involving clusters of related industry sectors. One example is the **Sustainable Buildings and Construction Initiative (SBCI)**, launched in 2006 and involving 20 companies in an agreed work programme to address matters such as climate change and energy efficiency in buildings. This initiative includes companies from a variety of sectors, including architects, building material suppliers such as the cement and steel industries, as well as contractors, construction companies, and related standards and research institutes. Part of the added value is engaging companies across sectors, as well as involving interested stakeholder organisations such as NGOs in issue-based activities. For further information, see www.unepsbci.org/.

Another example is the UNEP-based **Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV)**, formed in 2002, which currently has over 110 partners. Twenty-eight of the PCFV partners are from the oil and vehicles industry and are actively engaged with government agencies and NGOs to promote the adoption of cleaner fuels and vehicles in developing countries. These companies have been involved in the preparation of reports to address key issues of concern to developing countries in adopting cleaner fuels and vehicles standards, and they provide technical, networking, and other support to PCFV activities. For further information, see www.unep.org/pcfV.

In 2001, UNEP was instrumental in creating the **Global e-Sustainability Initiative** with telecommunications companies as well as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the European Telecommunications Network Operators Association (ETNO), and North American members of the Communications Environmental Excellence Initiative (CEEI). Today, GeSI has become a well-developed information and communications technology (ICT) initiative, with 22 companies and collaboration with the Electronic Industries Code of Conduct (EICC) in addressing global supply-chain issues. The initiative operates more independently today, but UNEP continues to support its activities in the terrain of e-waste. For further information, see www.gesi.org.

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The oldest sector initiative associated with UNEP remains the **UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)**, the roots of which go back to the early 1990s. Close to 300 banks and insurers from over 50 countries have signed up. Initiated as a means of engaging financial institutions on environment and climate matters, signatories commit to integrate sustainable development considerations into all aspects of their operations and services. The participating institutions (i) support the precautionary approach to environmental management; (ii) recognise that identifying and quantifying environmental risks should be part of the normal process of risk assessment and management; and (iii) pursue best environmental practices. In recent years, UNEP FI has collaborated with the UN Global Compact in creating the **Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)** initiative, with its secretariat operating from London. Through its working groups, UNEP FI continues to address new topical issues such as valuing biodiversity and investment in climate friendly technologies. For further information, see www.unepfi.org/.

In the area of hard technology support, UNEP has been working with Greenpeace and six food and beverages companies under the **Refrigerants Naturally initiative**. This group collectively promotes a shift in point-of-sale cooling technology in the food and drink, food service, and retail sectors towards alternative refrigeration technology that protects the Earth's climate and ozone layer. A similar initiative, **Solar Chill**, involves UNEP and partner organisations advancing a climate- and ozone-friendly vaccine cooler that is powered by solar energy and helps improve the health of people living in rural areas of developing countries. For further information, see www.unep.fr/ozonaction/partnerships/index.htm.

At the cross-sectoral level, an umbrella initiative in which UNEP remains a core UN agency is the **UN Global Compact**. As of 2008, the initiative had close to 6,000 participants including over 1,300 non-company stakeholder organisations. As proposed by UNEP in the past, the initiative has started requiring participant companies to report annually on how they implement the ten Global Compact principles. A process has started to de-list companies that do not annually report progress on how they internalise social and environmental responsibility in their operations. UNEP works with the UN Global Compact in launching new work in the area of climate change as well as responsible supply or broader value chains. UNEP also participates in activities of the **CEO Water Mandate**, where involvement of expert organisations in matters related to water efficiency in industrial operations is key. For further information, see www.unep.fr/scp/compact/.

Voluntary initiatives need to be accompanied by sustainability reporting, which advances transparency and accountability. Since the late 1980s, UNEP has worked to stimulate individual companies to report on their environmental performance and the implementation of their voluntary commitments in the form of codes of conduct and charters. UNEP and SustainAbility Ltd have for many years produced benchmark reports on corporate sustainability reporting and dialogue through its joint **Engaging Stakeholders Programme**. Demand for greater transparency and accountability underline the value of sustainability reporting. UNEP addresses

this need through the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI). The GRI secretariat, a UNEP Collaborating Centre based in Amsterdam, continues to facilitate the refinement of a common framework for reporting by all organisations on the sustainability of their operations, products, and services. UNEP supports the development of sector supplements to the GRI, and special guidance to, for example, small companies (SMEs). As of 2008, UNEP is also leading new efforts to improve public sector engagement and address the role of governments in the GRI process. For further information, see www.unep.fr/scp/gri/.

Support through project work, management guidance, and training through collaborating centres

At the project level, a recent example of industry engagement by UNEP is a project in Safer **Production and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** at the site level. This project focuses on the chemicals and mining sectors, with involvement of the relevant industry associations, in adapting the longstanding APELL model to a broader safer production and corporate responsibility approach. A special guide has been developed and is being pilot tested at chemicals and mining sites in Thailand and Peru, to facilitate adaptation to local needs. The guide provides for stakeholder engagement and business partnering in improvement of safety procedures, awareness and preparedness, as well as ongoing communication or progress at the local community level.

UNEP will also continue its work to support small entrepreneurs and companies (SMEs) through partnership initiatives such as **The Seed Initiative** (www.seedinit.org), environmental management and resource efficiency guides for SMEs such as the Efficient Entrepreneur (UNEP/Wuppertal Institute-Centre), and the new network of 24 UNEP/UNIDO National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs) in developing and transition economy countries. These centres support the introduction of local level training, assessments, and demonstration projects. Through in-plant demonstrations, an NCPC can, for example, show that the concept of Cleaner Production can be applied to any industrial sector and how waste avoidance can be turned into profit. Involving local experts, the NCPCs will play a key role in promoting Resource Efficiency and concepts such as the 3Rs (reduce, re-use, recycle) in local business operations. For further information, see www.unep.fr/scp/cp/network/ncpc.htm.

Involving Workers and Trade Unions

In April 2007, UNEP⁴ and Sustainlabour⁵ launched a project on **“Strengthening trade union participation in international environmental processes,”** with the support of the government of Spain. The overall objective is to improve engagement of workers and trade unions in the development and implementation of environmental policy. It is currently being implemented in four regions: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The project focuses on:

1. Capacity building (with a particular focus on climate change, as well as sound and sustainable management of chemicals);
2. Adaptation and replication of selected trade union case studies; and
3. Awareness raising.

The project intends to contribute to the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the first Trade Union Assembly on Labour and the Environment (15–17 January 2006), in an attempt to empower workers and trade unions in being active partners for progress on environment and sustainable development issues and in launching related initiatives in their workplaces.

The project will result in the creation of regional working groups that will be able to provide input to a variety of further activities and disseminate knowledge among trade unions in their respective regions.

Achievements and outputs since the inception of the project include:

1. Training sessions on Climate Change and its consequences on employment and trade union action, and on the Sound and Sustainable Management of Chemicals. (Training manuals and other documents are available at http://www.unep.org/labour_environment/features/trade-unions-project.asp in four UN languages: English, French, Russian, and Spanish).
The capacity-building component of the project revolves around a series of training sessions at the global and regional levels. Trade union representatives from four regions—Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean—attended the global “Training of Trainers on Climate Change and Sound and Sustainable Management of Chemicals in Geneva from 26–30 May 2008. These training sessions are unique opportunities to enhance knowledge on Climate Change and on Sound and Sustainable Management of Chemicals among trade unions, as well as to have trade union representatives from different regions meet and develop coordinated strategies on these issues in the future. For further information, see http://www.unep.org/labour_environment/features/trade-unions-project.asp.
2. Review and replication of trade union experiences. An extensive survey was conducted to

⁴ The project is coordinated by the Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch – Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC) of UNEP, and benefits from the support and expertise of the Regional Offices and other divisions, especially the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) - Energy and Chemicals Branches.

⁵ International Labour Foundation for Sustainable Development, based in Madrid.

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identify and collect existing practices and literature on labour and the environment within trade unions' organisations. Selected experiences will be replicated or adapted to different regions/countries/workplaces.

3. Participation of workers and trade unions at international environmental meetings. Trade union delegates were sponsored to attend meetings/conferences/fora, where they made substantive contributions and statements. The statements and position papers attest to an increased understanding and knowledge of environmental issues and their interlinkages with and impacts on employment. These meetings include the 15th and 16th sessions of the UN CSD (CSD-15 and CSD-16, in New York), the North American Assembly on Climate Crisis (New York, 2007), the UNEP Regional Consultation Meeting for Europe (Geneva, 2007), the UNFCCC meetings (Bali, 2007 and Bangkok, 2008), and the UNEP Governing Council (Monaco, 2008).

Box 5. Focus on the Geneva "Training of Trainers," 26–30 May 2008

During the Geneva "Training of Trainers," 17 trade union representatives from four regions (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean) were trained on the labour and environmental challenges raised by climate change and the sound and sustainable management of chemicals in the workplace. A particular emphasis was put on: (i) the link between environmental sustainability and fundamental labour/human rights, including occupational health and safety; (ii) trade union experiences in the fields of climate change and chemicals; and (iii) the way forward for effective trade union action globally, aimed at mitigating potential risks and benefiting from potential opportunities for workers. Training manuals on these two issues have been designed and translated into four UN languages (English, French, Spanish, with Russian pending) for better dissemination, and made available on the UNEP Civil Society website.

These initial 17 trade union representatives will contribute to and share/disseminate their knowledge/expertise on these issues and deliver the trainings in their respective regions. Four regional sessions will be organised over 2008–2009 and focus on the specific environmental context, agenda, and trade union action of each region.

Ultimately, the Geneva training will result in (i) strengthening the Climate Change and Chemicals networks of experts among trade unions in the regions and globally, and (ii) improving trade unions' expertise, their representation in international environmental processes, and their contribution to drafting and implementing international environmental strategies that take into account labour aspects, with a view to sustainable development.

The Geneva training was also an opportunity to communicate on the different action/programmes/projects and entry points within UNEP, for future collaboration with major groups and stakeholders.

Engaging Indigenous Peoples and their Communities

UNEP is drafting a strategy for engaging with indigenous peoples, with the assistance of Tebtebba (the Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research & Education from the Philippines) and GRID Arendal, a UNEP-affiliated resource centre based in Norway. The document is aimed at engaging UNEP more actively with indigenous peoples as well as on their issues in relevance to the environment and vice versa. The strategy aims to support diverse perspectives on the environment and will allow a more integrated approach towards environmental issues, taking into account the social and cultural aspects that are linked to the environment from an indigenous person's point of view. It is also intended to encourage regular consultations between UNEP and Indigenous Peoples, as well as the inclusion of indigenous peoples in UNEP's work.

A public consultation on the first draft was held in December 2007 during the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, with 46 indigenous peoples' representatives from different regions. This was followed by an electronic consultation on the draft in January-February 2008 and a discussion session held during the 7th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held at UN Headquarters in April 2008. It is expected to be finalised in 2009 after undergoing consultations among UNEP staff.

When the strategy is completed, it will represent an important tool for UNEP alongside the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted through Resolution 61/295 of the General Assembly on 13 September 2007 to engage indigenous peoples effectively in policy development and implementation processes. It is now up to the member states and the UN to collaborate with Indigenous Peoples to ensure the rights as they are contained in the Declaration.

Of particular importance to UNEP is to ensure the free prior informed consent of the respective indigenous peoples regarding any issues concerning the development or activities on their traditional lands and territories. These could be related to forced removal from their lands without relocation, compensation, or any option of return, as well as hazardous waste dumping on traditional territories, military activities, and exploitation of natural resources. Although not a legally binding instrument, governments and the UN have the political and moral obligations to use it as a reference document on international indigenous issues and as a political document to raise awareness. For further information on the Declaration, see <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfi/en/declaration.html>.

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UN-PFII) is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health, and human rights. According to its mandate, the PFII:

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- Provides expert advice and recommendations on indigenous issues to the Council, as well as to programmes, funds, and agencies of the UN, through the Council;
- Raises awareness and promotes the integration and coordination of activities related to indigenous issues within the UN system; and
- Prepares and disseminates information on indigenous issues.

The Permanent Forum holds annual two-week sessions. The first meeting of the Permanent Forum was held in May 2002, and yearly sessions take place in New York. For further information, see <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/>.

UNEP is a member of the Inter-Agency-Support Group to the PFII, and has thus taken part in some of the following processes:

The United Nations Development Group has developed Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples issues, the purpose of which are to assist the UN system to mainstream and integrate indigenous peoples' issues in processes for operational activities and programmes at the country level. The Guidelines set out the broad normative, policy, and operational framework for implementing a human rights-based and culturally sensitive approach to development for and with indigenous peoples. They also provide lines of action for planning, implementation, and evaluation of programmes involving indigenous peoples, as well as a framework for duly integrating the principles of cultural diversity into UN country programmes. For further information, see http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/UNDG_Guidelines_indigenous_FINAL.pdf.

The Secretariat of the PFII, in co-operation with ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, and SCBD, published the **Resource Kit on Indigenous Peoples Issues**. The Kit is aimed UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and other development agents, providing them with guidance for engaging indigenous peoples and including their perspectives in development processes, including CCA/UNDAF, MDG monitoring, PRSP, and others. It should help UNCTs implement the UNDG guidelines and the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, in addition to serving as a tool that enhances and strengthens the role of UNCTs in integrating indigenous issues in the UN system's work at the country level. Finally, the Kit includes a thorough, if not exhaustive, overview of international agreements and legal frameworks that deal directly or indirectly with indigenous issues, as well as international mechanisms that specifically target indigenous peoples. For further information, see http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/resource_kit_indigenous_2008.pdf.

UNEP already engages in a variety of projects addressing environmental issues and indigenous peoples. For example, UNEP's Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch and Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP) jointly coordinated a project on **"Indigenous Peoples' Participation in Mapping of Traditional Forest Resources for Sustainable Livelihoods and Great Ape Conservation,"** implemented in Cameroon by WWF and Forest Peoples Program/UK. The objective of the project is

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to engage the indigenous Baka peoples to participate effectively in protected areas management where great apes are under protection. It aims to support such communities to document their forest resource uses through participatory mapping techniques and to establish a dialogue with governmental and non-governmental conservation agencies in order to devise joint plans for the protection of community forest uses and the conservation of great ape species.

In addition, UNEP/GRID Arendal recently launched the five-year-action plan **“Many Strong Voices”** (MSV), designed to support indigenous peoples that are at risk from climate change through research, support, and training. Inhabitants of the Arctic and Small Island Developing States are already seeing dramatic effects from climate change in their communities. Their partnership with the Many Strong Voices programme has not only ensured that the programme best addresses their needs, but has also allowed them to share their experience with the rest of the world. The programme itself is community-driven, but it addresses both local and global issues related to climate change. For further information, see www.manystrongvoices.org.

For further information about UNEP’s work with indigenous peoples, see <http://www.unep.org/indigenous/>.

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Chapter 5: UNEP in the Regions

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UNEP's Regionalization Efforts

Global environmental policy development and implementation can be effective only if full account is taken of regional priorities. Environmental problems are often local, regional, or sub-regional in scale, and they require regionally based solutions that take into consideration geography, specific environmental conditions, cultural heritage, traditions, and practices.

A strong focus on local and regional levels is crucial to the ownership and successful development of sustainable livelihood strategies. It also fosters local capacity development and provides an enabling environment for local initiatives oriented towards combating poverty and reducing environmental degradation.

Governments have taken a number of decisions to strengthen UNEP's regional presence. In February 2003, they adopted decision GC22/21, which requests UNEP to: "establish and strengthen partnership at the regional and sub regional levels with other United Nations bodies, development banks and other institutions, including major groups, with a view to enhance the effectiveness of the development and delivery of the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme in the regions." In addition, the Medium-Term Strategy states that: "UNEP will move towards a strategic presence model, involving a significant strengthening of the UNEP regional offices. This model is based on UNEP engaging its staff and resources more effectively to respond to regional and country needs in line with the Bali Strategic Plan and Governing Council decisions on strengthening the Regional Offices of UNEP."

NATURAL ALLIES: ENGAGING CIVIL SOCIETY IN UNEP'S WORK

CHAPTER 5: UNEP IN THE REGIONS

UNEP's Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC) is composed of a coordinating office based at the headquarters in Nairobi, and of the following six Regional Offices.

- Regional Office for Africa (ROA)
- Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)
- Regional Office for Europe (ROE)
- Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)
- Regional Office for North America (RONA)
- Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA)

Regional offices play a leading role in the delivery of UNEP's vision and mandate. The main activities of DRC are:

- To undertake relevant information and data-gathering to bring regional perspectives to the development of UNEP policies and programmes;
- To present UNEP global policies in the regions and enlist support for them at all levels;
- To implement and complement relevant parts of UNEP's global programmes through initiating, co-ordinating, and catalysing regional and sub-regional co-operation and action in response to environmental problems and emergencies;
- To assist in the development of policies and programmes on global and regional environmental issues between and within governments in the regions;
- To provide advisory services to help governments translate global commitments into national action for the protection and enhancement of the environment;
- To raise public awareness of environmental problems and create a constituency for environmental action;
- To promote co-operation between UNEP and NGOs and the private sector; and
- To broaden the constituency of UNEP.

Civil Society Engagement in the Regions

As the primary contact points for local, national, and regional CSOs, the regional offices are at the "front line" of civil society engagement. In this context, the regional offices play a proactive role in engaging civil society in governmental decision-making (Chapter 2) and in all aspects of the implementation of UNEP's work programme (Chapter 3), including: scientific assessment; development of policies and law; implementation of environment policies and law; communication; and engaging business and industry. Additionally, each regional office focuses on specific actions according to each regional context. Below is a summary of the main activities targeted at civil society within the different regions.

Africa

Located at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, UNEP's Regional Office for Africa (ROA) provides a wide range of advisory services through an umbrella project known as Regional Advisory Services (RAS).

ROA's work focuses on ensuring that environmental considerations are the engine driving Africa along the road to recovery, stability, and sustainable development. ROA plays a central and holistic role of co-ordinating UNEP's activities in the African region. ROA acts as the link between the various Divisions and Centres of UNEP and the countries in the region, and promotes collaboration and partnerships with organisations active in sustainable development in Africa. The office collaborates closely with many partners to put Africa on the global map where critical environmental issues are discussed and addressed. The office provides substantive and organisational support to intergovernmental processes such as the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), which is the main vehicle for reviewing African environmental issues and identifying priorities; the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW); and the Forum of Energy Ministers in Africa (FEMA).

ROA supports the strengthening of the strategic partnerships with Major Groups in the region and facilitates their active participation in UNEP-sponsored forums. ROA further supports activities aimed at enabling Major Groups, including youth networks, to better facilitate learning about conservation of natural resources, entrench sustainable consumption and production lifestyles in young people, and promote programmes using proven environmental education and training models. Efforts are also directed at strengthening the Africa Youth Environment Network.

ROA also works with the African Network for Environmental Journalists, established to strengthen partnership and strategic alliance with the media, in support of UNEP's public awareness programme in Africa. The network is instrumental in facilitating environmental information dissemination and knowledge-sharing in the region. ROA is equally working with schools and universities through collaboration with the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), established in 1981 to raise awareness of environmental issues and effect change through education. Working with FEE, ROA is partnering African educational institutions with others in Europe.

At the sectoral level, ROA is focusing its attention on some of the major African environmental challenges, including climate change, freshwater resources, reversal of land degradation, diminishing biodiversity, and coastal and marine resources.

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Asia and the Pacific

UNEP's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) is located in Bangkok, Thailand. It covers nearly 50 countries, and includes five distinct sub-regions: Central Asia, South Asian, Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia and the South Pacific. The strategic directions for ROAP include promoting regional and sub-regional co-operation, strengthening the environmental community, identifying and addressing emerging environmental issues, and the implementation of pilot projects for leadership by demonstration.

ROAP involves civil society in an annual high level Sub-regional Environmental Policy Dialogue (SEPD). Initiated in 2003, this dialogue seeks to strengthen regional policy formulation through an annual meeting of the chairs of five sub-regional governmental processes and five eminent civil society leaders. Additionally, UNEP plans to establish sub-regional civil society forums in five ROAP sub-regions that aim to identify priority emerging issues and implement programmes based on *State of the Environment Assessments* and WSSD/Millennium Development Goals imperatives. Representatives are drawn from each country within the sub-region and from the nine civil society groups defined in *Agenda 21*.

In 2006, a new centre to strengthen civil society networks in Asia-Pacific and to enhance leadership skills for environmental conservation and restoration was launched in Seoul, Republic of Korea. This new centre, the UNEP Eco-Peace Leadership Centre (EPLC), serves as a regional hub for civil society networking and capacity building. It also hosts the annual Asia Pacific regional civil society consultations, prior to the Global Civil Society Forum.

ROAP supports sub-regional networking, capacity building, and knowledge management. It focuses its work on young people, parliamentarians, media, and the private sector. With regard to youth, in addition to active implementation of the Tunza strategy, ROAP established five sub-regional youth networks that have created membership criteria, network hosting arrangements, print and electronic communications, meeting schedules, and annual programme activities. Youth representatives from the five sub-regional youth networks participate in the annual regional civil society forum.

To promote environmental education and capacity building in the region, ROAP has developed a strategic partnership with Tongji University through the joint UNEP-Tongji Institute of Environment

for Sustainable Development (IESD). Located in Shanghai, IESD provides annual Leadership Programmes on Environment for Sustainable Development that bring together participants representing the various Major Groups.

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Europe

Europe is home to some of the largest and most powerful CSOs. The governments of this region also maintain a long tradition of involving civil society in their work programmes. Consequently, UNEP's Regional Office for Europe (ROE) has been able to establish and strengthen partnerships with a wide and diversified spectrum of major civil society groups and constituencies at the regional, sub-regional, and national levels.

Through continued dialogue and exchange of information, ROE significantly supports effective networking of NGOs amongst each other and with other groups, as well as their capacity to raise awareness and draw attention to national, regional, and global environmental problems and concerns. ROE enlists the support of Major Groups in transforming UNEP's global policy and programmes into regional and local perspectives.

ROE has been in the forefront of engaging CSOs in a range of projects and programmes it manages and supports. It supports civil society in key environmental policy areas, including: the promotion of public participation in the implementation and decision-making process of the Carpathian and Caspian Conventions, the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy, and the Environment and Security Initiative; and the promotion of national actions on sustainable consumption. ROE also supports the implementation of concrete action focusing on energy, consumption and production patterns, water quality, and air pollution. It works with youth and the aging population, two groups with increased purchasing power, to educate and encourage alternatives to the current "consumerism."

ROE also supports the active participation of civil society in other regional and sub-regional processes with links and potential implication for UNEP's work. This includes: the implementation of the Aarhus Convention; the "Environment for Europe" Ministerial process; the European Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health overall process, opportunities and challenges for NGOs; and the implementation of the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) agenda.

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Considering the strategic presence of several UNEP programmes, branches, and Conventions in Geneva, ROE continues to play a central role in facilitating and creating opportunities for its civil society network to partner with the Geneva-based UNEP Offices. This also extends to the creation of new partnerships and information exchange with a number of sister UN agencies and other international organisations headquartered in Geneva.

ROE is particularly active in the outreach field. It assists in the production of outreach materials, including youth publications, and supports the involvement of young people in decision-making mechanisms not only within the UNEP Tunza Europe network but also with other sister UN agencies. ROE continues to be a valuable contributor to youth participation in environment and health decision-making processes under the European Environment and Health process.

ROE has also increased and strengthened its partnership with women's groups in Europe and taken the lead in regionalizing the Women as the Voices for the Environment conference in Europe.

ROE developed and maintains an extensive network of UNEP national committees, which support implementation of UNEP's work programme and outreach activities at the national level (organising special events, public information campaigns, meetings, seminars, and workshops on various environmental issues). ROE supports the Geneva Environment Network, a network of international environmental organisations with NGO involvement, which publishes directories of green organisations and newsletters and develops websites.

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Latin America and the Caribbean

UNEP's Regional Office for Latin American and the Caribbean (ROLAC) is located in Panama. Academic Centers and NGOs play a major role in ROLAC's work, which focuses its actions on the Latin American "Forum of Ministers of the Environment." The Forum identifies regional environmental priorities through periodical meetings and develops a Regional Action Plan that lists the required activities in making regional co-operation more effective and congruent. One of the main challenges of the Forum is to address the growing levels of poverty and inequality, as well as integrating environmental and social concerns into development policy in all sectors.

ROLAC involves civil society in policy debates during the Ministerial Forum where CSOs can

organise and participate in parallel meetings. ROLAC is particularly active in the implementation of Principle 10 and the presentation of cultural diversity in environmental protection. ROLAC implements a partnership with civil society through "Global Environmental Citizenship," a GEF Project executed in coordination with six NGOs to improve citizenship engagement in the areas of climate change, biodiversity, international waters, and the ozone layer.

In raising public awareness, ROLAC works with youth networks to develop national and regional youth GEO reports. It works closely with the media through the "Tierramerica Project," a joint UNEP-UNDP and International Press Service project with 29 regional newspapers, more than 800 radio stations, and a website—reaching more than 15 million people each week. ROLAC also contributed to the creation of two networks of environmental journalists for Central and South America. The collaboration with the media and other communication organisations has led to a dissemination network through 34 TV Channels in the region, with programmes developed jointly with the Albatros Foundation.

ROLAC has also created the "Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean," reaching universities and academic communities and focusing its work on thematic issues, including the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. ROLAC is actively involved with a wide range of civil society actors, including: Academia Mexicana de Derecho Ecologico (AMDA); The Ford Foundation; Caribbean Law Association (CLA); Caribbean Law Institute Center-Barbados (CLIC); Energy through Enterprise, Brazil (ECO); Environmental Law Centre, Fondo de las Américas, Chile; Lawyers for a Green Planet Institute, Brazil (LGPI); the Institute for Tropical Studies, Rare Center for Tropical Conservation (RARE); IUCN; and universities and educational institutions.

ROLAC is the operative Secretariat of the Parlatino Environment Commission, which prepares parliamentarians on emerging environmental issues.

The Latin America Civil Society Forum has been strengthened and amplified including a larger number of members involved, from indigenous and rural communities, women's groups, and the industrial sector.

The TUNZA regional network, organised in four sub-regions, has had active and important participation, in particular in relation to International Youth and Children's Conferences.

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North America

The Regional Office for North America (RONA) is located in Washington, D.C. It provides the United States and Canadian governments with information about UNEP's activities and develops and maintains partnerships with these governments as well as with a wide range of other stakeholders, including academic institutions, environmental research organisations, the media, NGOs, the private sector, the scientific community, and youth organisations. For example:

- RONA is working in partnership with Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Botanic Garden (USBG) to showcase UNEP's activities, including an annual awards ceremony for the regional winner of the Children's Painting competition on Earth Day, a poster exhibit on Sustainability to be displayed from May to October 2008, and an exhibit promoting the Billion Tree Campaign in conjunction with national and local tree planting organisations.
- RONA is collaborating with the Discovery Networks, parent company of the Discovery and Animal Planet television channels. The network has invited UNEP's Executive Director to sit on the Board of Advisors of its new channel Planet Green, whose mission is to educate, enable and inspire individuals to live greener lives. This partnership provides an opportunity for UNEP to influence the programme content of this major media initiative by providing technical experts, by assisting with the development of educational programmes for youth, and through information sharing.
- Bayer U.S. is providing financial resources and in-kind support for a youth component to the North American World Environment Day (WED) festivities, including the announcement of a joint UNEP/Bayer annual community grant to a local school to work on a hands-on environmental project. The students will work on a project to address "kicking the carbon habit" over the coming year, and will report on their progress at WED 2009.

RONA also actively solicits civil society views on UNEP policy matters, such as those being considered by the annual Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF). Towards this end, it organises an annual North American Regional Civil Society Consultation. RONA hosts policy workshops and conferences in support of UNEP's global work as well as in support of North American initiatives, such as the Fall 2009 North American workshop on sustainable consumption and production.

The office also organises periodic meetings and roundtable discussions between civil society representatives and visiting senior UNEP management and staff to discuss issues relevant to UNEP's mission and programme, including climate change, environmental governance, and international chemicals policy.

UNEP's New York Office (NYO) is based at UN headquarters. With the role and influence of civil society greatly expanding within the international community, the NYO develops and maintains a proactive relationship with UN-affiliated NGOs, foundations, private sector corporations, academic institutions, and others, particularly those active in the UN Commission on Sustainable Development process. Through various outreach initiatives and products, it builds support among such groups for the work of the UN in the international environmental field and the role of UNEP as the environmental conscience of the UN system.

The New York Office also facilitates the transmittal of civil society views and information to other substantive units within UNEP. In particular, the Office has developed fruitful co-operation with the religious and faith communities as well as groups working in the area of children's environmental health. The office also provides briefings on international environmental issues and UNEP activities to a wide variety of visiting groups from the academic community and civil society, either directly or through the UN Department of Public Information.

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West Asia

The Regional Office for West Asia (ROWA) is located in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The office serves 12 countries in West Asia: six Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates) and six Mashreq Countries (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and Yemen).

The regional office ensures that the environmental priorities in the West Asia region get adequate representation in the global work programmes carried out by UNEP, and that global focus areas are reflected in the environmental work carried out in the countries of the region.

Towards this end, ROWA has formed close links with the principal ministerial body in the Arab region, the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), especially in its Steering Committee on Environmental Education, Information and Public Awareness.

To further its regional coordination efforts, ROWA has also formed linkages with the Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and the Regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment (ROPME). ROWA also elaborates on environmental strategies in collaboration with the Joint Committee of Environment & Development in the Arab Region (JCEDAR) and the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA).

These linkages are designed to enable the consolidation of available resources, establishing and organising regional activities, and ensuring that the environmental activities that are undertaken are in line with the priorities identified by ministerial councils and UNEP global programmes.

The focus of ROWA reflects the focus of the region environmentally, including: the need for scientific assessment; freshwater and marine ecosystems; land use; industrial pollution; and biodiversity.

In the policy debate, ROWA supports numerous consultations at the regional level, including ensuring the participation of civil society and parliamentarians. At the project implementation level, ROWA has focused on coral reefs (with the International Coral Reef Action Network), the phase-out of leaded fuel/petrol, water, environmental law (with the Arab Regional Centre for Environmental Law), and clean production and environmental management systems. UNEP ROWA is also embarking on a major project in the region, funded by the UN Development Programme, on capacity building and the promotion of public participation in Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). The project involves working with major groups and stakeholders in highlighting the mechanisms of EIAs, the role of public participation in the process, and also building the capacity of the stakeholders in terms of the effectiveness of their participation.

In the area of raising public awareness, ROWA is developing a media knowledge centre and is supporting the Arab media towards achieving sustainable development. UNEP also works with youth and youth organisations, taking advantage of its network established when producing a Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) report for youth. ROWA seeks to strengthen its scientific base, and its partners such as the Arabian Gulf University, while taking into account the spiritual component of environmental education in coordination with ministries of religious affairs and other civil society groups.

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Chapter 6:

Financial Resources for Civil Society

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The primary role of UNEP is to catalyse environmental action. It has limited funds to allocate to civil society compared to those of intergovernmental development agencies, such as UNDP. Financial resources for civil society can be generated through UNEP when activities are undertaken in support of the implementation of its work programme or as part of UNEP's portfolio of projects as an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility.

Main Areas of Financial Resources for Civil Society

The development of scientific assessments, policies, and laws, as well as their implementation, can generate resources for civil society. Following are some of the main areas of opportunity:

In the field of *Scientific Assessment*, UNEP provides leverage to attract governmental and intergovernmental funds (especially from the GEF). As UNEP's work depends on research and academic/scientific centres, UNEP finances these institutions. The *Global Environment Outlook*, as well as all the other assessments undertaken by UNEP, are excellent examples of results from this support.

When developing a *policy or law*, individuals or their organisations in the technical or policy fields may be contracted directly by UNEP to prepare papers or organise seminars on different

technical topics. These experts can work as consultants or UNEP can formalise co-operation with their respective organisations. The objective of expert consultation is to inject fresh and accurate knowledge into UNEP on new environmental trends or complex policies and laws. In the same vein, it is current practice to finance individuals from developing countries or countries in transition, to participate in policy dialogues or meetings at both the regional and global levels.

In the field of *policy implementation*, UNEP sometimes finances CSO pilot projects. For example, UNEP financed EarthCare Africa to execute a project on “Empowering Women in Rainwater Harvesting in Kenya.” The project illustrated the critical role played by pastoralist Maasai women and by women living in the slums in water management.

In the field of implementation of policy or law, partnerships with CSOs are a powerful tool to garner additional support. In a partnership with a civil society partner, UNEP can endorse and promote the project of the CSO. This endorsement is a powerful leverage to seek funds from financial institutions, such as national or international development agencies. Another financial advantage of participating in a UNEP partnership is that CSOs, which usually compete for the same scarce financial resources, are collaborating rather than competing.

Any project that UNEP finances has to be formulated according to UNEP standards. When the project is approved, UNEP and the CSO sign a Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) that provides a contractual basis for the relationship between the CSO and UNEP. This document describes the major activities and expected outputs. It contains the legal clauses that UNEP and the CSO have to fulfill in order to execute the project. The SSFA also contains administrative information on the mechanism for disbursement of funds.

Where there is no financial commitment from either party, UNEP and the CSO can work within the framework of a letter of agreement.

Financial Resources Through UNEP-GEF

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides grant and concessional funding to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet agreed incremental costs of measures to achieve global environmental benefits in six focal areas: biological diversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, persistent organic pollutants, and ozone layer depletion.

The GEF serves as a financial mechanism for the implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The GEF also supports the objectives of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in countries with economies in transition (developing

countries are supported by the Multilateral Fund) and the Regional Seas Agreements. The GEF manages two additional special funds under the UNFCCC: the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).

Organisational Structure

Currently, 178 countries are members of the GEF, and each country has a GEF representative known as a "Focal Point." The GEF Council is the main governing body of the GEF and features 32 members representing GEF member countries, both developed and developing. The GEF Assembly comprises all GEF member countries and meets once every four years to review the policies and operations of the GEF. The GEF Secretariat serves and reports to the Assembly and Council. In consultation with implementing agencies, the GEF Secretariat ensures the implementation of policies and operational strategies. The GEF CEO and Chairperson heads the Secretariat.

The GEF operates on the basis of collaboration and partnership among three Implementing Agencies (UNDP, UNEP, and the World Bank) and seven GEF Executing Agencies (FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNIDO, and the four Regional Development Banks).

The independent GEF Evaluation Office (GEFEO) conducts reviews of GEF's work and publishes lessons learned so that the GEF's effectiveness can be enhanced.

The GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) provides strategic scientific and technical advice to the GEF. STAP has six members who are internationally recognised experts in the GEF's key focal areas of work: biodiversity (including biosafety), climate change (mitigation and adaptation), international waters, sustainable land management, persistent organic pollutants, and ozone depletion. STAP provides objective, strategic scientific and technical advice on GEF policies, operational strategies, projects, and programmes. In the GEF Project Cycle, STAP focuses on the provision of quality advice to the Council and the GEF Secretariat on scientific and technical priorities to deliver global environmental benefits including the provision of: (i) advice on the scientific rationale for new and existing strategic programmes; (ii) screening project concepts for scientific and technical soundness and oversight of the screening process; and (iii) advice on project development on a selective basis.

GEF Operations

Support is provided to eligible countries through a variety of project types, including: Programmatic Frameworks, Full-size and Medium-sized projects within GEF Focal Area Strategies, and Strategic Priorities. The GEF also supports “Enabling Activities” that assist countries to build their capacity, including meeting obligations of being Party to the CBD (and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety), the UNFCCC, and the Stockholm Convention.

The GEF is a project co-financier, bringing together GEF resources with those from governments, banks, NGOs, bilateral and multilateral agencies, and the private sector. GEF projects must be “country-driven” and address the global environment within the framework of country priorities, complementing national programmes and policies. The funds the GEF allocates seek to reach “new and additional” benefit to these national initiatives to obtain global environmental benefits.

In development of a GEF project, key criteria are taken into account in the review process:

- country eligibility;
- consistency with GEF strategic objectives and strategic programmes;
- comparative advantage of the GEF agency submitting the PIF;
- estimated cost of the project, including expected co-financing;
- consistency of the GEF grant request with resources available in the focal area;
- GEF Resource Allocation Framework allocations;
- milestones and agreements for further project preparation.

In September 2005, the GEF Council adopted the Resource Allocation Framework (RAF), a new system for allocating GEF resources to recipient countries. Under the RAF, resources are being allocated to countries based on their potential to generate global environmental benefits and their capacity, policies, and practices to successfully implement GEF projects. RAF implementation began in July 2006 and applies to resources for financing biodiversity and climate change projects through the 4th replenishment of the GEF.

GEF projects are supported in their preparation and implementation by the GEF’s Implementing Agencies and Executing Agencies and are approved by the GEF Council or its Chief Executive Officer (CEO), based at the GEF Secretariat in Washington, D.C.

UNEP’s GEF Portfolio

Projects implemented by UNEP represent approximately 7–8 percent of the value of the entire GEF portfolio. Further to this breakdown, UNEP has historically been responsible for implementation of 25 percent of the enabling activities and 25 percent of the medium-size project portfolio, measured by number of projects.

CHAPTER 6: FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

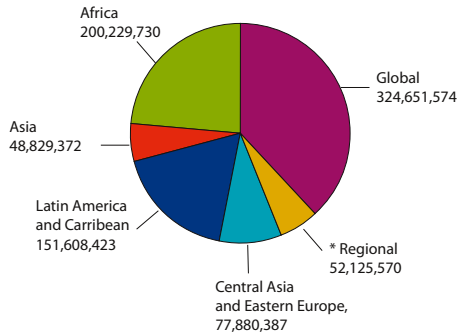
UNEP's recognised strengths and areas of comparative advantage for project development and implementation include: scientific and technical analysis, assessment, development of monitoring, tools, standards and norms in all of GEF's focal areas, and capacity building and technical assistance in select areas of emphasis. UNEP engages in emerging issues and adaptive learning, international and national environmental policy and law, fostering transboundary collaboration, and establishing networks with other organisations. UNEP works through partners, including UN bodies, NGOs, and networks.

Table 1 shows (by GEF Focal Area) the number of projects approved since 1991, the US\$ value in GEF resources approved, and the U.S. dollar value of the registered co-financing. In total, the GEF co-funding ratio is 2:3, although big changes between focal areas occur (for example, Land Degradation projects tend to generate much more co-funding compared to Biodiversity projects or Ozone Degradation projects).

Focal Area	No. of Projects approved	GEF Funds(US\$ Value)	Cofinancing (US\$ Value)
Biodiversity	155	259,486,489	250,154,617
Climate Change	67	160,192,592	254,156,299
International Waters	38	201,768,021	438,994,475
Land Degradation	13	56,334,036	209,963,109
Multi-Focal Area	61	91,754,854	168,497,572
Ozone Degradation	14	34,092,611	14,866,871
Persistent Organic Pollutants	67	51,696,453	36,293,823
Totals	415	855,325,056	1,372,926,766

Figure 2 shows the regional distribution of approved portfolio (US\$ value) by UNEP region. Global interventions and activities focusing on the African Region dominate UNEP DGEFs main geographical intervention areas.

Figure 2: Regional Distribution of UNEP-GEF Project in US\$



*Regional - This represents projects of a regional nature that include countries from more than one geographical region but are in the same general area, mainly Regional Seas projects.

The following sections provide some examples of civil society engagement with UNEP-GEF in recent projects:

International Waters

Most, if not all, GEF projects in the International Waters focal area involve civil society directly. The following projects exemplify the involvement of civil society in project implementation:

Reduction of Environmental Impact from Tropical Shrimp Trawling through the Introduction of By-catch Reduction Technologies and Change Management. This project, executed in partnership with FAO, is demonstrating the effectiveness of by-catch reduction devices (BRDs) whilst developing and revising national policies on shrimp/fish trawling in Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago. Based on the results of the demonstration of the use of BRDs, in most of the participating countries, critical public-private partnerships have been established between the industrial trawlers and the fisheries departments. The industrial trawlers have started installing the devices as a direct result of the project's interventions.

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Russian Federation – Support to the National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment. This project is executed by the Russian Ministry of Economic Development. One of the demonstration activities in the project relates to the co-management of resources with indigenous people in the Russian North, with the NGO RAIPON. A Strategic Action Programme has been developed in close consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including indigenous peoples' organisations, private companies, and local governments.

Implementation of the Strategic Action Program for the Bermejo River Binational Basin. This project has fostered shared water resources management between Argentina and Bolivia at the basin scale, within an environment of unprecedented public participation. The high degree of involvement of all basin stakeholders from all levels of Bolivian and Argentinean society in discussing Bermejo matters and jointly designing a SAP for the basin was a hallmark of the project, and the key to most of the technical achievements in the basin.

This effort has involved work by community-level organisations and non-governmental institutions, as well as official local, state, and federal agencies. Two hundred and sixty local consultants, from 70 different institutions, were hired to help produce the analyses and reports. Working Groups of government, civil society, and local experts were established to help prepare the action programme. There were 12 regional workshops or seminars involving over 1,100 participants. The seminars identified the major problems, their causes, and possible solutions. A website was established to promote access to preliminary reports and information about the study conclusions (in Spanish). This medium was complemented by interviews, surveys, specific topical meetings, and direct participation by local beneficiaries in the pilot demonstration projects. More than 100 provincial and national institutions and CSOs participated in the final compilation of plans, programmes, and projects.

Integrated Management of Land-Based Activities in the São Francisco Basin project established the institutional cornerstone mechanism for the participative and integrated management of the basin, by actively supporting the creation and strengthening of the São Francisco River Basin Committee (CBH-SF), which was established by Brazilian Presidential decree on June 5, 2001. The new Committee is comprised of 60 members representing: 40 percent water users, 33 percent public institutions, and 27 percent civil society with shared responsibility among the five riparian states and the Federal District. The mobilization process was implemented by an NGO entity from the basin, through an agreement signed with ANA. As part of the process, a total of 66 public events were held, involving 6,600 people (including 26 indigenous people representatives) from all over the Basin, with a predominant participation of civil society representatives (53 percent), followed by water users (28 percent), and public institutions (19 percent). Overall, the public participation process has been a big success story, responsible for most of the project's achievements to-date.

Biodiversity

In-situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) Through Enhanced Information Management and Field Application. This project is investigating beneficial traits of selected CWR with a view to establish breeding programmes for increasing the use of CWR for crop improvement. Actual and potential uses of CWR species, and their importance to local and national economies, will be assessed. In situ conservation actions for species that are desirable for use in production systems will also facilitate the conservation of species and habitat biodiversity in general. Partners are working collaboratively with communities to implement strategies for sustainable conservation and use of CWR.

In Situ/On-Farm Conservation and Use of Agricultural Biodiversity (Horticultural Crops and Wild Fruit Species) in Central Asia. This project relies on Multidisciplinary Site Committees that are considered the principal tool for involvement of local communities. Researchers are trained in application of participatory approaches and tools in indigenous fruit crop diversity evaluation to capture associated traditional knowledge. They consider local communities as equal players in the agrobiodiversity management process in countries with transition economies where farmers were ignored as knowledge holders.

Conservation and Use of Crop Genetic Diversity to Control Pests and Diseases in Support of Sustainable Agriculture. This project identified stakeholders through consultation and a multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary approach at the national and local project site levels. The main stakeholders involved include farmers, farmer organisations, women motivators within the farming communities, CBOs, NGOs, agricultural extension workers, natural and social science researchers from universities and agricultural research institutes, and government ministries of agriculture and the environment.

Global Environmental Citizenship Project. This project includes as its partners the civil society organisations World Association of Communitarian Radio Broadcasters (AMARC), Latin American Association of Radio-educators (ALER), Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI), Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO), Consumers International (CI), and IUCN. Working with CSOs, the project has generated public awareness, increased levels of understanding of global environmental issues, and mobilised support in Latin American countries for the objectives of the GEF operational programmes.

Biosafety

UNEP has been assisting, since 2001, approximately 140 countries to meet their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB). As of June 2008, through two global and 19 national projects, UNEP has assisted countries to

develop their National Biosafety Frameworks (NBF), start implementing these frameworks, and set up their national Biosafety Clearing-Houses to share information globally. Public Awareness and Participation is required under Article 23 of the CPB and is a major part of any NBF.

In addition, UNEP has developed a toolkit (www.unep.org/biosafety) that will enable countries to develop their stakeholder participation and to include this as part of their NBFs. UNEP has also developed a training curriculum and modules targeted specifically at training the public on issues related to the BCH, including informing “the public about the means of public access to the Biosafety Clearing-House” (Art. 23). Although the UNEP biosafety programme has no specific project targeting civil society, national-level implementation requires that each Party develop and implement its biosafety framework with full civil society participation, and ensures that systems for public participation and information are incorporated into the national biosafety frameworks.

Climate Change

Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change in Multiple Regions and Sectors (AIACC). This recently completed project uniquely featured extensive participation by academia. The capacity built by the project promises to be sustainable because of a number of innovative features. Most of the regional assessments were based at scientific institutions, meaning that the enhanced capacity is located in institutions committed to ongoing research, education, and training. Through their participation in the AIACC project, they have developed new capabilities and/or enhanced existing capabilities for policy-relevant assessment of climate change vulnerabilities and adaptation. Training activities were directed primarily at early career scientists of high merit, which will yield more sustainable involvement of developing country scientists in the issue of climate change than would be achieved by targeting more senior scientists.

Integrating Vulnerability and Adaptation in Eastern and Southern Africa. The goal of this ongoing project is to reduce the vulnerability of communities to the impacts of climate change, thereby improving their well-being and protecting their livelihoods. The project will also provide global environment benefits by contributing to the mitigation of land degradation and greenhouse gas emissions. To support achievement of its goal, the project will promote the mainstreaming or integration of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change into sustainable development plans and planning processes through three pilot projects. In Kenya, efforts to reduce the vulnerability of Makueni District to the impact of drought through improved land management practices will contribute to sequestration or conservation of carbon in the soil. In central Mozambique, community-based fire management will reduce the area of forests that currently burn on an annual basis, and provide the skills necessary to address the rise in fire outbreaks anticipated as a result of climate change. And in Rwanda, increased provision of energy from current and future mini-hydro dams will reduce demand for energy from fossil fuels and biomass sources.

Cogeneration for Africa. This project is designed to promote wider use of efficient cogeneration options in Africa and eventually stimulate over US\$300 million of cogeneration investment in the region. It works with policymakers to expand clean electricity sales from cogeneration plants to the national grids of the region, which will in turn deliver substantial socio-economic benefits at the local and national levels as well as expand the clean energy industry in the region. Adoption of cogeneration has several attractive benefits for different stakeholders. In Mauritius, for example, smallholder farmers growing sugar cane can benefit from the sale of surplus electricity to the grid by sugar factories, via an innovative revenue-sharing system that could be a model for the region. Because most agro-industries and forest industries with cogeneration potential are located in remote rural areas, they provide a good opportunity for expanding rural electrification for local communities. This in turn can bring benefits such as improvements to health care facilities and schools as well as enhancing the potential for agroprocessing facilities such as milk coolers and maize mills.

Land Degradation

Kenya – Development and Implementation of a Sustainable Resource Management Plan for Marsabit Mountain and its associated watersheds. This project works with communities on the periphery of the mountain that use the forest resources. The earliest candidates for assistance were the 15 Manyatta or villages that own Gotu Gadi Gorge, which have made progress towards construction of a den to reduce livestock pressure on the forest. Progress has also been made in the establishment of new community woodlots and associated nurseries. Capacity enhancement of national stakeholders has been accomplished through post-graduate scholarships and the sponsoring of national leaders to visit the project. Local communities have been direct participants in the project operations and are the main implementers of innovations.

Sustainable Management of Inland Wetlands in Southern Africa: A Livelihoods and Ecosystems Approach. This project is being implemented in eight southern African countries and will be completed in 2009. Through integrated analysis and modeling, the project has made progress in combined livelihood and biophysical analysis. It has provided guidance whereby livelihood benefits are combined with the preservation of ecological and hydrological functioning and stability of sensitive ecosystems that are used for agricultural purposes. Progress has also been made in local-level capacity enhancement. The skills developed have enhanced the implementation of innovative and indigenous sustainable land management practices at the local level.

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

POPs, Food Security, and Indigenous Peoples in Arctic Russia. Indigenous peoples organisations, such as the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North (RAIPON), the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC), the Saami Council (SC), and the Aleut International Association (AIA), are

working with the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) to execute this project, which assessed levels of toxins in the region.

Fostering Active and Effective Civil Society Participation in Preparations for Implementation of the Stockholm Convention. This global project, a joint effort of UNEP and UNIDO, involved NGOs in promoting the elimination of POPs, and was based on the important role played by NGOs from many countries in the negotiation of a strong and effective Stockholm Convention. The project recognised and built upon the important role that NGOs and civil society in many developing countries and countries in transition have played in recent years in raising awareness and promoting appropriate policies for the protection of health and the environment from chemicals and wastes. The Environmental Health Fund and the International POPs Elimination Network (IPEN) coordinated the participation of more than 350 NGOs worldwide in the project.

National Implementation Plans (NIPs) for the Stockholm Convention on POPs. CSOs are involved on a routine basis in all Enabling Activities for countries developing their NIPs. They are invited to participate in stakeholder meetings, contribute to the establishment of countrywide POPs inventories, and are actively involved in the country action plan development, which forms the basis of all follow-up activities in the country for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention. Of the more than 130 NIP projects worldwide, 60 are supported by UNEP.

The GEF Small Grants Programme

Launched in 1992, the Small Grants Programme (SGP) supports activities of non-governmental and community-based organisations in developing countries towards climate change abatement, conservation of biodiversity, protection of international waters, reduction of the impact of persistent organic pollutants, and prevention of land degradation while generating sustainable livelihoods. Funded by the GEF as a corporate programme, SGP is implemented by UNDP on behalf of the GEF partnership, and is executed by the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

At present, 101 countries participate in SGP, having ratified the conventions on biological diversity and climate change. There are 84 country programmed offices, two regional offices, and two sub-regional offices with day-to-day management by SGP National Coordinators and SGP Sub-regional Coordinators. The overall SGP project portfolio during the GEF-4 so far roughly comprises 41 percent biodiversity, 24 percent climate change, 13 percent land degradation, 7 percent multi-focal issues, 4 percent international waters, and 2 percent POPs. The funding to-date comprises US\$247.2 million from GEF and US\$308.8 million from other partners as co-financing in cash or in-kind equivalents.

The maximum grant amount per project is US\$50,000, but the average is around US\$20,000. Grants are channeled directly to CBOs and NGOs. More than 10,500 grants have been awarded

worldwide to-date, with many benefiting multiple communities. SGP features decentralised decision-making about grant awards, based in strategic direction by a voluntary National Steering Committee in each participating country. A small central programme management team, based in New York, is staffed by nine people.

For more information on the SGP, see <http://sgp.undp.org>



Chapter 7: Conclusion

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Beyond merely recognising each other's relative strengths and weaknesses, UNEP and civil society have to bear in mind that there are very real problems that urgently need to be addressed. UNEP's GEO-4 report provides cause for concern, showing that collectively humans are over-utilizing the Earth's ecosystem services at a rate that is outstripping nature's ability to renew and replenish them.

The report concluded that the per capita availability of fresh water is declining globally; that the vast majority of well-studied species are declining in distribution, abundance, or both; and that the Earth's surface is warming, threatening to further exacerbate the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of land, soils, forests, fresh water, and the oceans.

GEO-4 also found that environmental changes affect human development and that poor people are the most vulnerable to them. Climate change, for example, is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of heat waves, storms, floods, and droughts. More than 90 percent of the people exposed to such disasters live in the developing world.

There can be no real change in these environmental trends without a corresponding improvement in the living standards and situation of many millions of people around the world. This is especially relevant with respect to developing countries, where most of the world's poor are currently living. More than 1 billion people—nearly one in every six on Earth—currently live in extreme poverty. The international system has committed itself to reduce poverty and to address other critical global challenges through the Millennium Development Goals. (See Box 6.)

CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSION

Despite the pressing problems and sobering realities mentioned above, there is also reason for hope. The GEO-4 report found that over the past two decades, the international community has reduced the production of ozone-layer damaging chemicals by 95 percent, created innovative carbon trading and carbon offset markets, increased terrestrial protected areas to the point that they now cover 12 percent of the Earth's surface, and successfully negotiated numerous important international environmental treaties and agreements on diverse issues, including biological diversity, climate change, land degradation, and trade in hazardous wastes.

All of these victories have resulted from joint efforts between the UN system and Major Groups. To build upon these successes, civil society and UNEP must continue to deepen their relationship and work together to protect our planet and all those who inhabit it.

Box 6. The Millennium Development Goals

Humanity faces the great challenge of alleviating widespread poverty and developing the planet in a sustainable manner. There is now widespread agreement on crucial, minimal steps that must be taken to improve the living conditions of millions of people across the world. Central to this pursuit are the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs consist of a series of pledges by the governments of the world, most of which are to be achieved by 2015.

Of particular importance for UNEP is Goal 7, "Ensuring environmental sustainability," which includes three main targets:

Integrate the principle of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse the loss of environmental resources.

By 2015, halve the proportion of peoples without sustainable access to safe drinking water.

By 2020, have achieved a significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

For further information, see <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

Annexes

A. Main Contacts at UNEP

Major Groups and Stakeholders Branch (MGSB)
Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi 00100, KENYA
Tel:
Fax: +254 20 7625010
E-mail: Civil.Society@unep.org
Web: http://www.unep.org/civil_society/index.asp

Division of Early Warning and Assessment (DEWA)
P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi 00100, KENYA
Tel: +254 20 7623231
Fax: +254 20 7623943
E-mail: dewa.director@unep.org
Web: <http://www.unep.org/dewa/index.asp>

Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI)
P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi 00100, KENYA
Tel: +254 20 7623508
Fax: +254 20 7623917
E-mail: depiinfo@unep.org
Web: <http://www.unep.org/DEPI/>

Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics (DTIE)
15 rue de Milan, 75441 Paris Cedex 09, FRANCE
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Web: <http://www.unep.fr>

Division of Regional Cooperation (DRC)
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E-mail: drc@unep.org
Web: <http://www.unep.org/DRC/>

ANNEXES

Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC)

P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi 00100, KENYA

Tel: +254 20 7623283

Fax: +254 20 7624300

E-mail: delc@unep.org

Web: <http://www.unep.org/dec/>

Division of Communications and Public Information (DCPI)

P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi 00100, KENYA

Tel: +254 20 7621234

Fax: +254 20 7624489/90

E-mail: unepinfo@unep.org

Web: <http://www.unep.org/dcpi/>

Division of Global Environment Facility Coordination (DGEF)

P.O. Box 30552, Nairobi 00100, KENYA

Tel: +254 20 7623424

Fax: +254 20 7624041

E-mail: gefinfo@unep.org

Web: <http://dgef.unep.org/>

B. Selected Sources of Information for Civil Society Organisations

Listed below are some websites of environmental or sustainable development organisations that have information on a range of environmental issues.

- CONGO Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations – www.ngocongo.org
- ELCI Environment Liaison Centre International – www.elci.org
- ENS Environment News Service – www.envirolink.org/environews
- FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations www.fao.org

Friends of the Earth www.foe.org

Global Environment Facility www.gefweb.org

Global Environment Facility NGO Network www.gef-ngo.net

Greenpeace www.greenpeace.org

IAITPTF International Alliance of Tribal Peoples of the Tropical Forests
www.international-alliance.org

ICCWBO	International Chamber of Commerce - The World Business Organization <i>www.iccwbo.org</i>
IIED	International Institute of Environment and Development – <i>www.iied.org</i>
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development – <i>www.iisd.org</i>
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature – <i>www.iucn.org</i>
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development – <i>www.nepad.org</i>
NESDA	Network for Sustainable Development in Africa – <i>www.nesda.kabissa.org</i>
NGLS	Non-Governmental Liaison Service – <i>www.un-ngls.org</i>
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – <i>www.oecd.org</i>

Science and Development Network *www.scidev.net*

Stakeholder Forum *www.stakeholderforum.org*

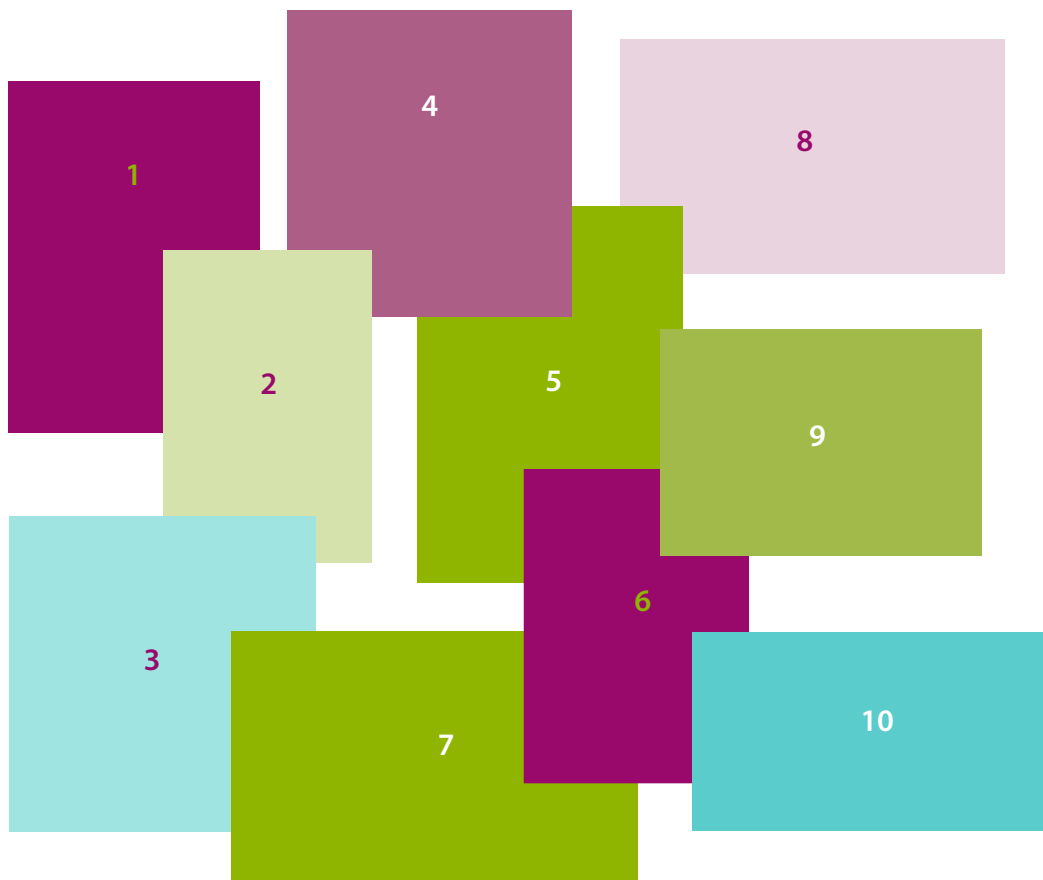
Third World Network *www.twinside.org.sg*

UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs – <i>www.un.org/esa</i>
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme – <i>www.undp.org</i>
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme – <i>www.unep.org</i>
WB	World Bank Group – <i>www.worldbank.org</i>
WEDO	Women's Environment and Development Organization – <i>www.wedo.org</i>
WRI	World Resources Institute – <i>www.wri.org</i>
WWI	Worldwatch Institute – <i>www.worldwatch.org</i>
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature – <i>www.wwf.org</i>

Acronyms

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO	Community Based Organization
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CONGO	Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationships with the United Nations
COP	Conference of Parties
CPR	Committee of Permanent Representatives
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCPI	Division of Communications and Public Information
DELC	Division of Environmental Law and Conventions
DEPI	Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
DEWA	Division of Early Warning and Assessment
DGEF	Division of the Global Environmental Facility
DRC	Division of Regional Cooperation
DTIE	Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ELCI	Environmental Liaison Centre International
EMG	Environmental Management Group
ETB	Economics and Trade Branch
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GC	Governing Council
GCSF	Global Civil Society Forum
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GMEF	Global Ministerial Environment Forum
GRASP	Great Apes Survival Project
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICRAN	International Coral Reef Action Network
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MGSB	Major Groups and Stakeholder's Branch
MSP	Medium Size Project
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PIC	Prior Informed Consent
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
PP10	Partnership for Principle 10
ROA	Regional Office for Africa
ROAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
ROE	Regional Office for Europe
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
RONA	Regional Office for North America
ROWA	Regional Office for West Asia
SGB	Secretariat for Governing Bodies
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SSFA	Small Scale Funding Agreement
STAP	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas
UNCSD	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization
UNF	United Nations Foundation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNNGLS	United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service
WB	World Bank
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WRI	World Resources Institute
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



1. © Per Anders Pettersson-UNEP / Still Pictures, Mozambique, Chibuto, Man carrying water and food across a flooded area.
2. © Lorraine Adams-UNEP / Still Pictures, New Zealand, Sign on beach warning young surfer of the dangers of swimming in water polluted by sewage.
3. © Bagan Maung-UNEP / Still Pictures, Myanmar, Near Kyauk Padaung (rural central Myanmar), Water is gathered from wells dug out of dry river beds during the summer months.
4. © T.R. Cooke-UNEP / Still Pictures, Solomon Islands, Children protesting against the destruction of their forest by a mining company. Tree was cut down soon after photo was taken.
5. © UNEP / Still Pictures, Cyprus, Irrigating crops.
6. © E. Amalore-UNEP / Still Pictures, India, Chennai, A woman labourer drying clay bricks in the sun.
7. © UNEP / Still Pictures, Asia, Crowds.
8. © Matt Hughes-UNEP / Still Pictures, Asia, Porters transporting refrigerators.
9. © Aekachai Tolertmongkol-UNEP / Still Pictures, Men standing amongst the cattle at a cattle market.
10. © Joseph Rotolo-UNEP / Still Pictures, USA, Webster, New York, Children clearing up litter in a park.

Harmful Substances
Indigenous Peoples & their Communities

Green Jobs Initiative

Workers & their
Trade Unions

Capacity Building

Regions

Partnerships

Earth Summit

UNEP Finance Initiative

Major Groups

Disasters &
Conflicts

NGOs

Dialogue

Ecosystem
Management

Business & Industry

GC/GMEF

Millenium Ecosystem Assessment

World Environment Day

Advocate

Climate Neutral Network

Farmers

Children & Youth

Environmental Governance

Climate Change

Poverty-Environment Initiative

Global Green New Deal

Global Civil Society Forum

Technology Support

Local Authorities

Resource Efficiency

Stakeholder Participation

Scientific & Technology Community

World Summit on
Sustainable Development

Agenda 21

Global Environment Outlook
Women

Millenium Development Goals

